SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

THE POWER OF NEGATIVE THINKING VOLUME 5

KOJI KUMETA

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SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI

The Power of Negative Thinking 5

Koji Kumeta

Translated and adapted by Joshua Weeks
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

KC KODANSHA COMICS

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The Power of Negative Thinking 5

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THE STORY SO FAR

Suspected of being the spy who stole Raageru's sacred book, Nozomi is captured and locked inside Doragonia's (of Shibusawa) basement. An interrogator holds a baton to Nozomi's throat. "Tell us where it is, Nyaho-nyaho-tama-kuro!" Nozomi is puzzled, never having heard this peculiar code name. Meanwhile, the count shows up and tells Nozomi, "You're a true Homo Ludens." The count takes a liking to Nozomi, and orders him to put on a weird gadget the likes of which Nozomi has never seen before. Nozomi runs away as the count screams with laughter, "You are wearing the best gadget ever made!" Nozomi runs into a house asking for help and meets an old man who looks like Jiro Shirasu. The old man tells Nozomi, "You have no principles," and teaches him how to make Scandinavian furniture. Meanwhile, a girl is hit by a stray bullet shot by Global Headquarters...

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Koji Kumeta

SAYONARA, ZETSUBOU-SENSEI 5

The Power of Negative Thinking

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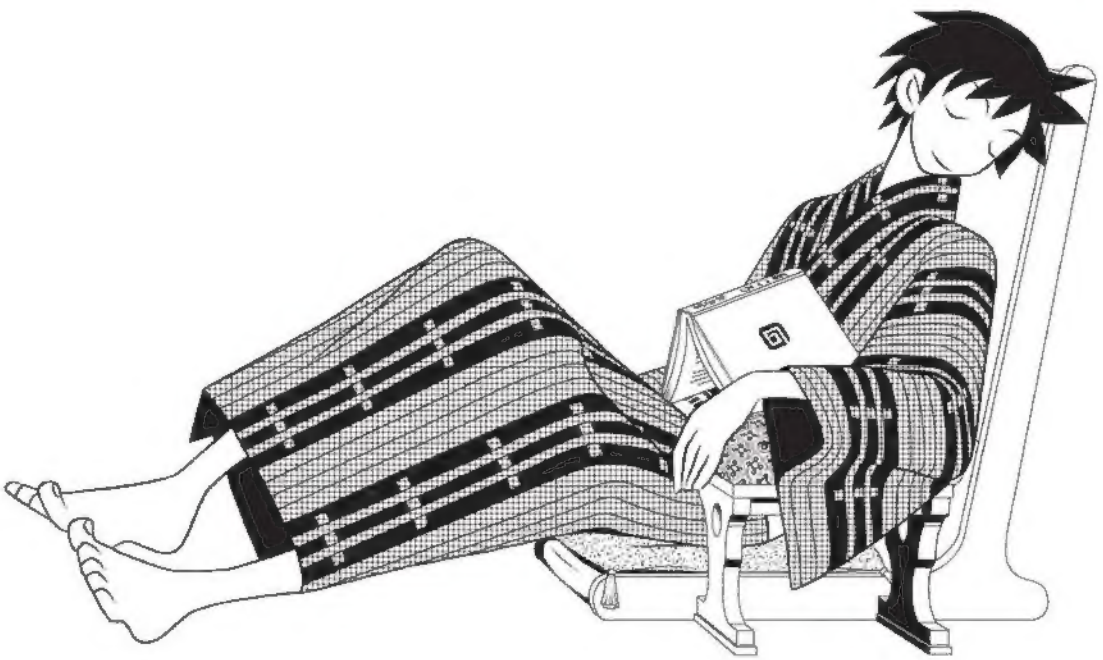


The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.
Originally published in 2006 in Weekly *Shônen Magazine* #1 to #13 (no story was printed in #12).

Cast of Characters

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-F

KAGER USAI
CLASS CHAIRMAN

TEACHER-IN-CHARGE
NOZOMU ITOSHIKI
SUPER-NEGATIVE MAN

NAMI HITOU
ORDINARY GIRL

ABIRU KOBUSHI
SMALL PETITE GIRL WHO GOT MOVED AT THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

MERU OTONASHI
POKER FACE GIRL

JUN KUTOU
WRITER (STORYTELLER)

HARUMI FUJIYOSHI
SMALL PETITE GIRL
ADDICTED TO COUPLING

KIRI KOMORI
UNKNOWN GIRL

CHIRI KITSU
PETHONICALAND PSYCHIC GIRL

TARO MARIA SEKIUTSU
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT, REFUGEE GIRL

KOTONON
NET IDOL

MATOI TSUNETSUKI
SUPER-LOVE-ORIENTED STALKER GIRL

KAERE KIMURA
(ALIAS RAIDS)
BILINGUAL GIRL

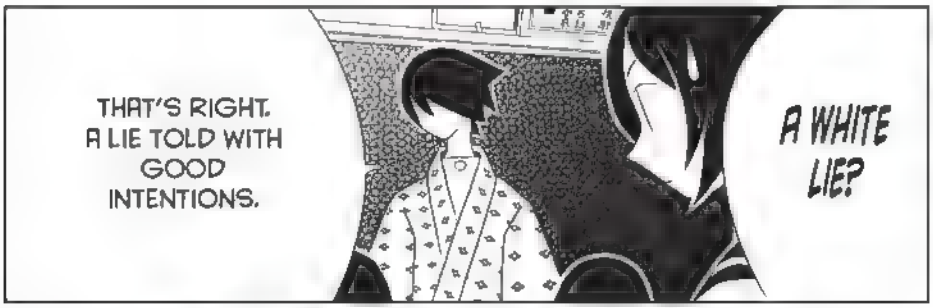
KAFUKA FUURA
SUPER-POSITIVE GIRL

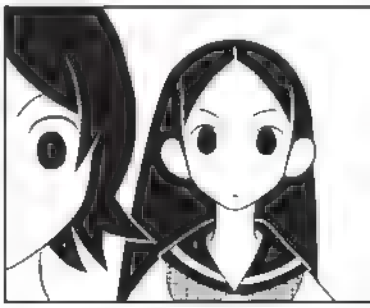
THE WHITE LIE

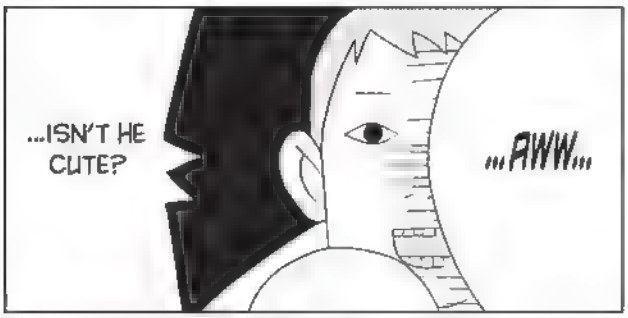
CHAPTER 41

WHITE DAY?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GIVE CHOCOLATE TO ANYONE?
LISTEN UP, GIVING AWAY CHOCOLATE ON WHITE DAY DOESN'T SHOW TRUE LOVE.

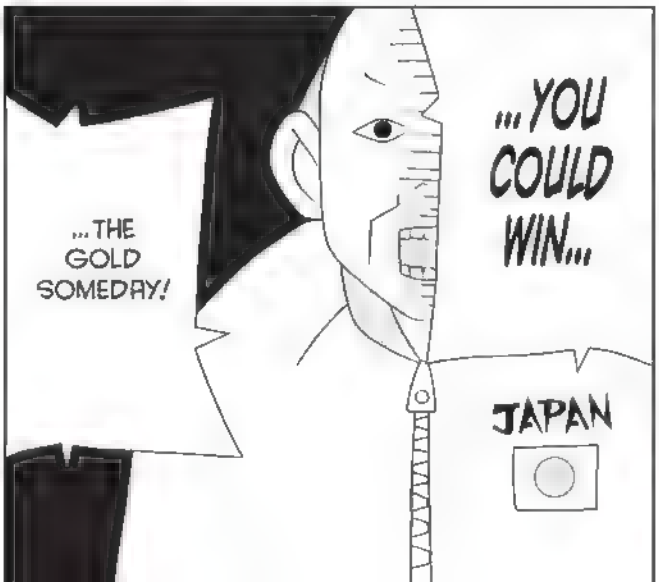
WHITE DAY IS NOTHING BUT A WHITE LIE!


THAT'S RIGHT. A LIE TOLD WITH GOOD INTENTIONS.
A WHITE LIE?




...ISN'T HE CUTE?
...AWW...

.....
LIKE SAYING TO THE PARENTS OF AN UGLY BABY...


...THE GOLD SOMEDAY!
...YOU COULD WIN...
JAPAN

.....
OR TELLING A TERRIBLE ATHLETE...
JAPAN

IT'S A *WELL-INTENTIONED LIE...*
...USED TO HELP SMOOTH OVER COMMUNI-CATION AND MAKE OTHERS FEEL BETTER!
OH... BY THE WAY...
RUSTLE ごそっ

THIS IS FOR YOU...IN RETURN FOR THE PRESENT YOU GAVE ME ON VALENTINE'S DAY.
HUH?

I LOVE YOU TOO.
HMMPH! YOU TIMED IT THAT WAY ON PURPOSE!

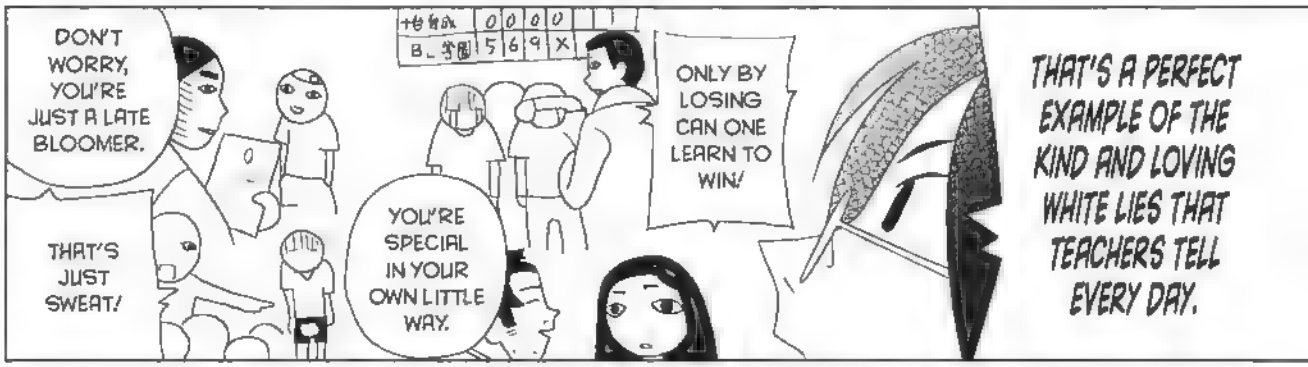
I WAS SO HAPPY.
はい THIS IS FOR YOU.
はい AND FOR YOU.
.....
YOU'RE A LIAR, SENSEI!

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TEACHERS ARE WHITE-LIE SPECIALISTS.
WE'RE ALWAYS TELLING LITTLE LIES LIKE THIS.
ぽん PLUP

IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO IT, YOU CAN DO ANY-THING.

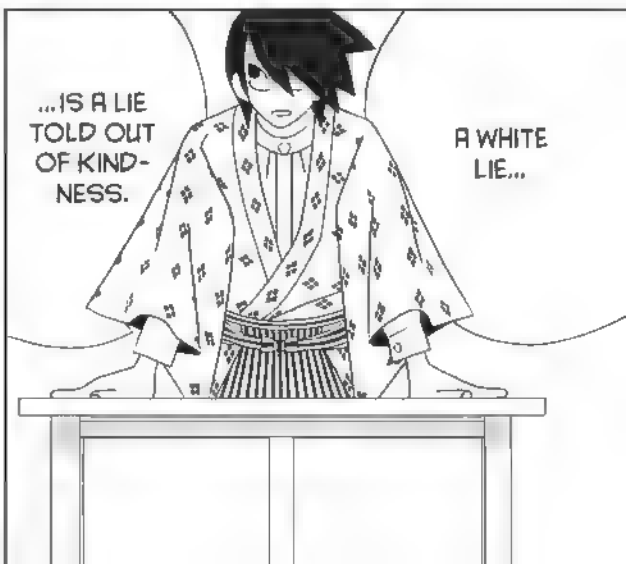
THAT WAS A WHITE LIE.

HOW MEAN.
IT'S AN EVERY-DAY OCCUR-RENCE.


DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE JUST A LATE BLOOMER.
THAT'S JUST SWEAT!
YOU'RE SPECIAL IN YOUR OWN LITTLE WAY.
ONLY BY LOSING CAN ONE LEARN TO WIN!
THAT'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE KIND AND LOVING WHITE LIES THAT TEACHERS TELL EVERY DAY.

大喰処 白田
プロピア散髪店

LET'S TAKE A FIELD TRIP OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD AND SEE IF WE CAN OVERHEAR SOME WHITE LIES.
WHAT A PERFECT OPPORTU-NITY.


...IS A LIE TOLD OUT OF KIND-NESS.
A WHITE LIE...

TAKE A LOOK AT THAT. WE'VE ALREADY FOUND ONE.
I'LL TAKE IT.
THAT WAS A WHITE LIE.
YOU LOOK GREAT IN THAT.
AT THAT MANGA ARTIST SITTING DOWN WITH HIS EDITOR?
NOW LOOK OVER THERE.
ANOTHER GREAT STORY.
I'M A HUMAN DOG
DO YOU TAKE HER FOR RICHER OR FOR POORER...
...IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH...?
THAT WAS A WHITE LIE!

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
THAT'S A WHITE LIE.
I DO.

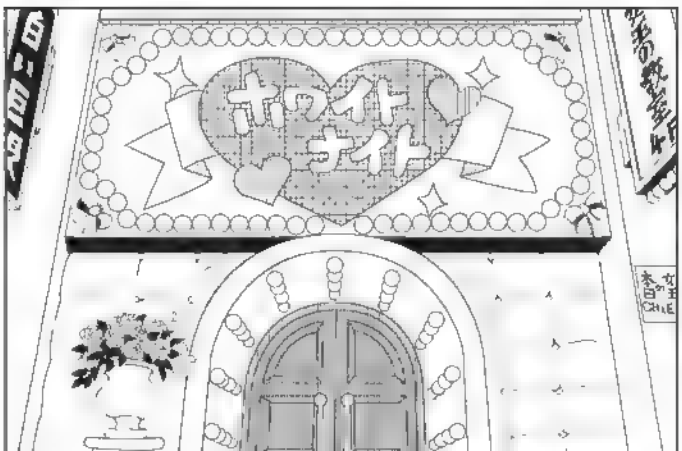
THERE'S NOBODY MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN THE GROOM.

AND NOW A WORD FROM THE GROOM'S BOSS, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NAMATOBIRA CORPORATION.
WEDDINGS AND WEDDING RECEPTIONS ARE OVERFLOWING WITH THE KINDEST WHITE LIES OF ALL.

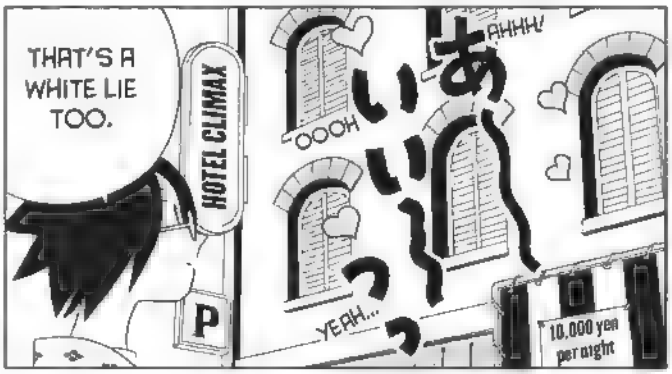
YOU LOOK SO CUTE!
YEP, THAT TOO!

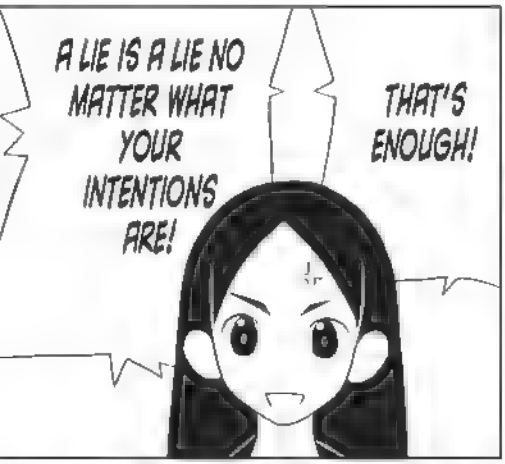
...IS A WHITE LIE.
PRACTICALLY EVERY-THING THAT EVERYBODY SAYS AT A WEDDING...

神室町一番街
龍如
THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT IS FULL OF WHITE LIES TOO.


ホワイトチャペル

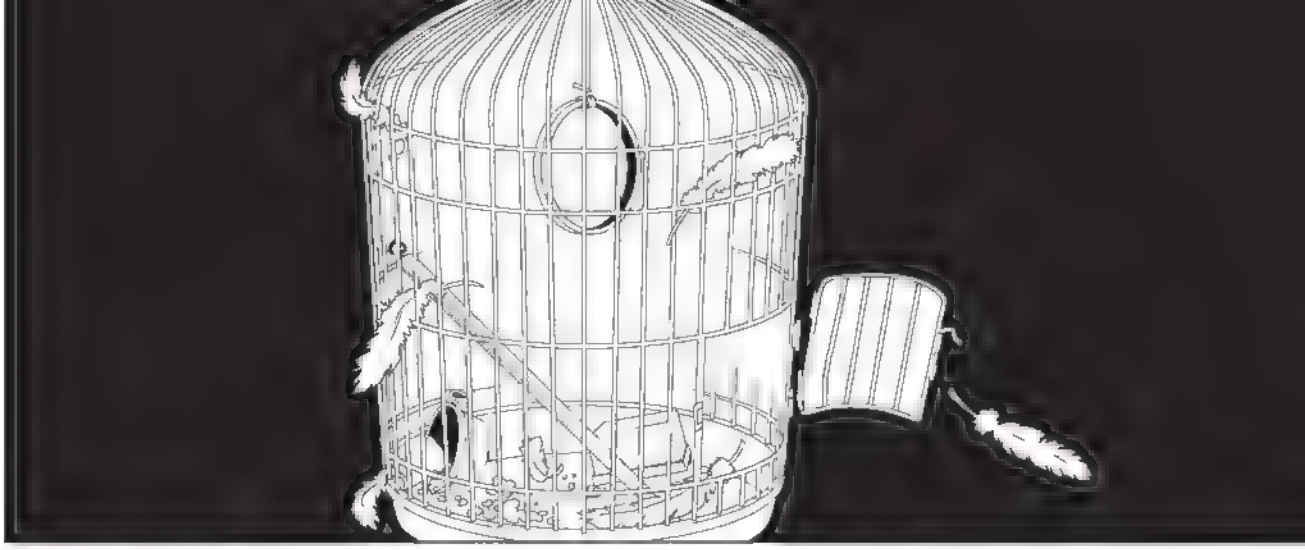
AND LOOK, THEY CALL THIS VIRGIN CARPET, RIGHT? THAT'S A WHITE LIE TOO.
BECAUSE NO VIRGINS ARE WALKING ON IT?



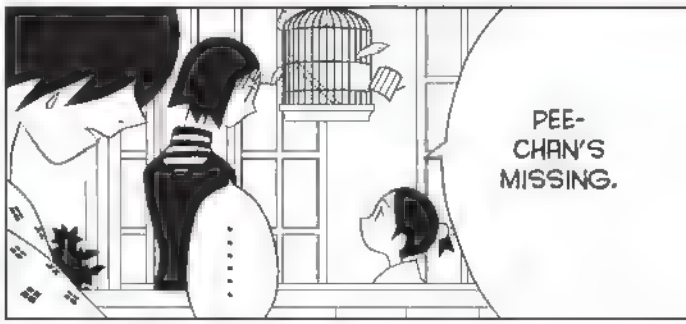


THE WHOLE WORLD IS FULL OF KIND AND GENTLE WHITE LIES!

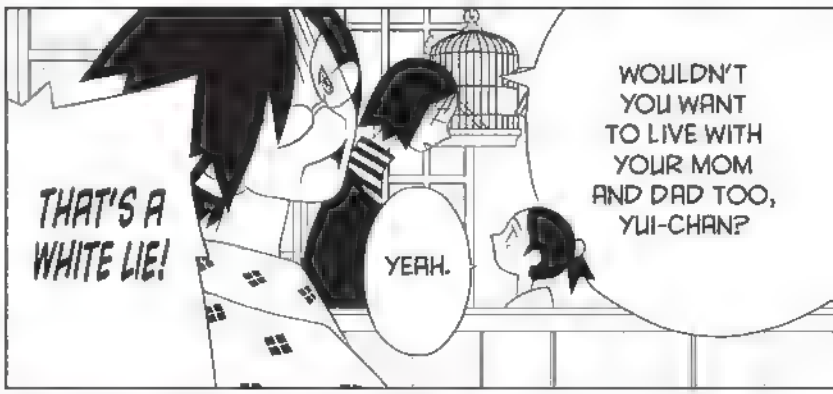
- JAPAN'S MINOR LEAGUE SOCCER IS A WHOLE LEAGUE OF WHITE LIES.
- "IT HAPPENS A LOT IN AFRICA."
- "WELCOME HOME, MASTER."
- THIS STOCK IS A SURE THING.
- A LITTLE DESSERT WON'T HURT YOUR DIET.
- I'LL BE DONE IN ONE HOUR (SPOKEN BY A MANGA ARTIST).
- I'LL BE DONE IN ONE HOUR (SPOKEN BY A MANGA EDITOR).
- I'LL BE DONE IN ONE HOUR (SPOKEN BY THE CHIEF EDITOR).
- REALLY (SPOKEN BY THE PRINTING COMPANY)?
- EVERY TIME CONAN-KUN CALLS RAN-CHAN.
- STICK-ON NIPPLES.
- THE FAKE WORLD IN THE *MATRIX*.
- THE DREAM WORLD IN *OPEN YOUR EYES*.
- WHEN CERTAIN LADIES SAY, "I WORK NIGHTS."
- NORTH KOREA WOULD NEVER ATTACK US.
- ALIENS ARE FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL.



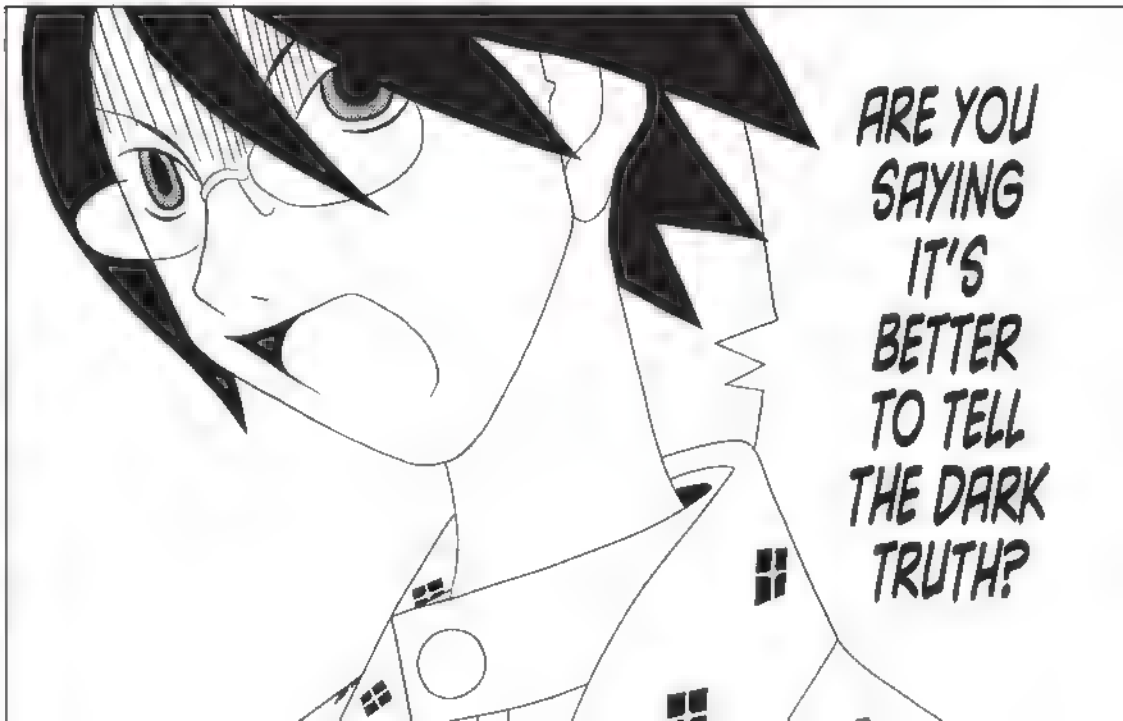
PEE-CHAN WENT BACK TO THE FOREST TO LIVE WITH HER FAMILY.


PEE-CHAN'S MISSING.
.....

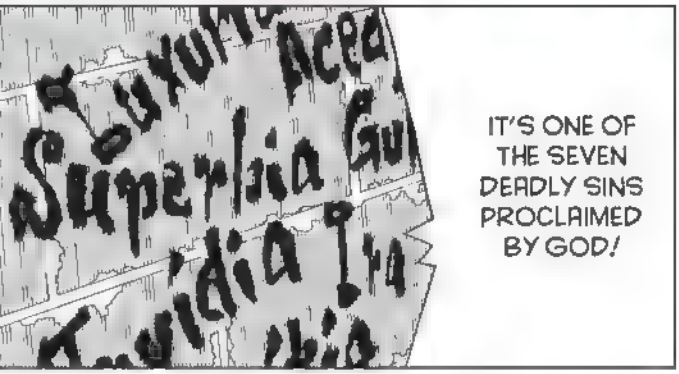
STILL THINK WHITE LIES ARE WRONG? EVEN IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT?

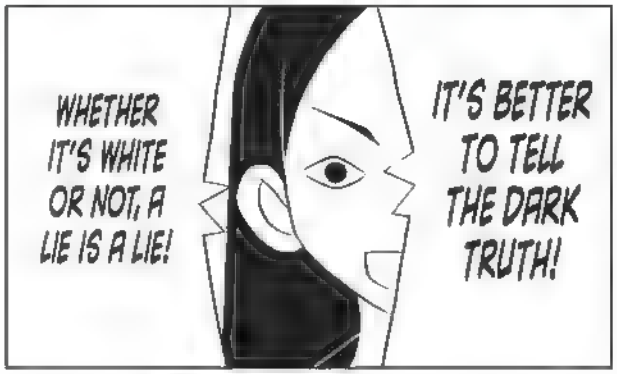

WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH YOUR MOM AND DAD TOO, YUI-CHAN?
YEAH.
THAT'S A WHITE LIE!

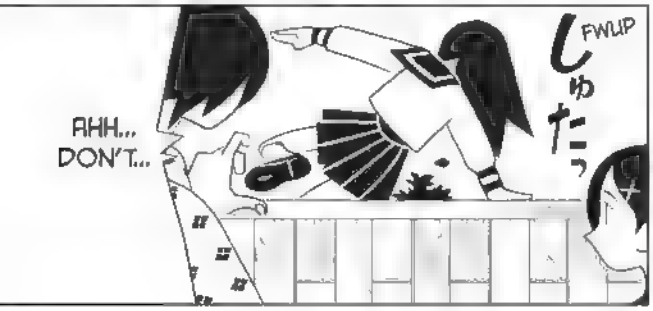
UH...

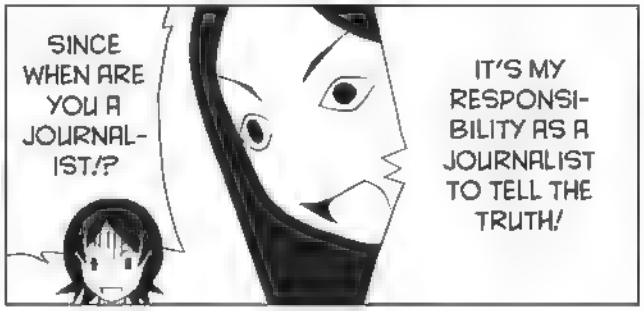

ARE YOU SAYING IT'S BETTER TO TELL THE DARK TRUTH?

YES.


IT'S ONE OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS PROCLAIMED BY GOD!


WHETHER IT'S WHITE OR NOT, A LIE IS A LIE!
IT'S BETTER TO TELL THE DARK TRUTH!


AHH... DON'T...
FWUP
しゅたっ


SINCE WHEN ARE YOU A JOURNAL-IST!?
IT'S MY RESPONSI-BILITY AS A JOURNALIST TO TELL THE TRUTH!

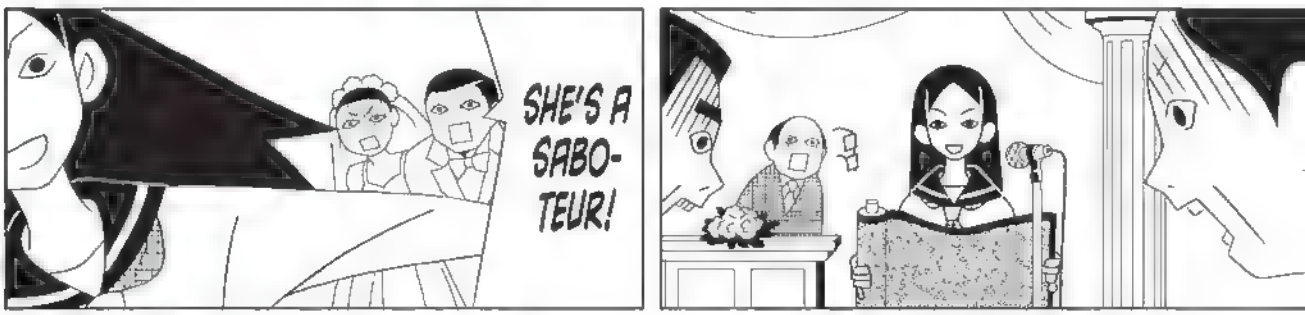
A CAT GOT HER...

WE'VE GOTTA STOP CHIRI!
OH NO, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!

I WON'T STAND TO HEAR ANYONE TELL A WHITE LIE! NOT ON MY WATCH!
WAAHH
わあああ

どんっ
BONK
GET OUT OF MY WAY, BOSS!
OKAY.
ぱしっ
SWIP
TAKE THIS, CHIRI!

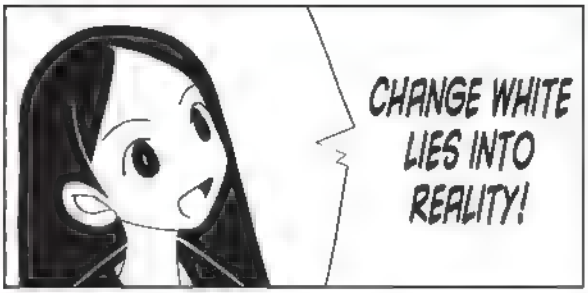
HE KEPT HITTING ON HIS CO-WORKER KAZAMA-SAN NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE TURNED HIM DOWN. KAZAMA-SAN ENDED UP QUITTING THE COMPANY.
THE GROOM HAS DITCHED WORK SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, AND PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE AGREES THAT YOU CAN'T DEPEND ON HIM.

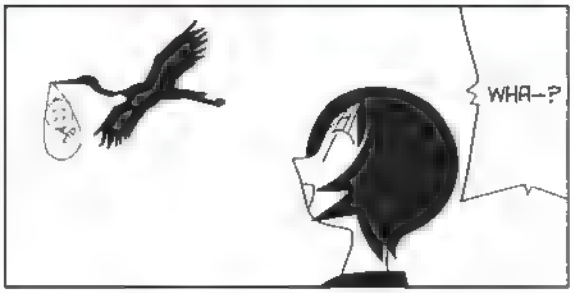

SHE'S A SABO-TEUR!

あああああ
WAHHH
AH.
WHERE'D SHE GO?

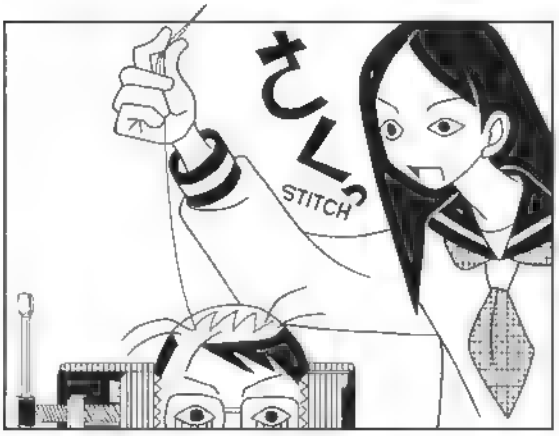
SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S OVER THERE.
JUST BECAUSE IT'S TRUE, DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO SAY IT!

SIMPLY REVEALING THE BLACK TRUTH ISN'T NECESSARILY A GOOD THING TO DO.
WAIT, CHIRI-CHAN!
AN ALIEN RACE IS TRYING TO DESTROY HUMANITY...
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS CHANGE WHITE LIES INTO REALITY!
HAVE YOU HEARD THE PROVERB "MANY A TRUTH IS SPOKEN IN JEST"?
IF YOU TELL A WHITE LIE AND SAY, "THIS IS A GREAT STORY," THEN THAT PERSON JUST NEEDS TO WRITE A REALLY GREAT STORY.
IF YOU TELL SOMEONE A WHITE LIE AND SAY, "YOU LOOK NICE IN THAT DRESS," THEN THAT PERSON JUST NEEDS TO LOOK NICE IN THE DRESS.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
...THE STORK BRINGS BABIES.
THAT'S RIGHT...
うどん
定食


CHANGE WHITE LIES INTO REALITY!


WHA–?

DON'T STORKS DELIVER BABIES ALL THE TIME?
STORK DELIVERS MISSING BABY
OH MY GOD, WHAT THE–?


さくっ
STITCH

I KNOW.
YOU'RE NOT BALDING AT ALL.

ABOUT TO GO SEE THE MOVIE.
MEIOU THEATER
WOW, THAT WAS A GREAT MOVIE.
回監督作品
SOLD OUT

CHAPTER 42

湯屋 千
I'M SO LUCKY THAT I WON THAT SHOPPING ARCADE RAFFLE AND GOT A FREE TRIP TO THIS HOT SPRING.
じ STARE
HUH?
Peeping will not be tolerated.
かぽーん SPLOOSH
AHH, IT'S SO PEACEFUL.

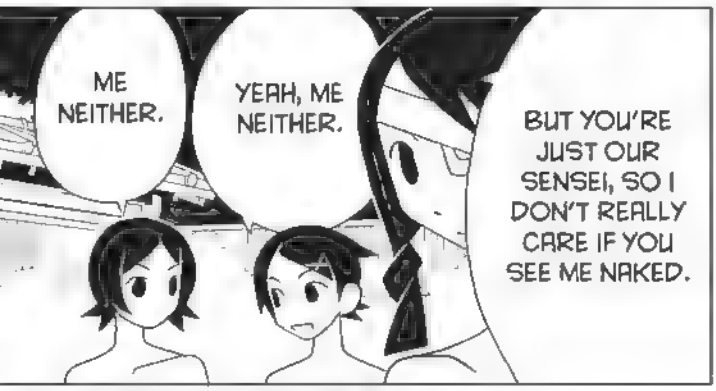
かぽーん
SPLOOSH
HEY, GET DOWN! YOU'RE GONNA HURT YOURSELF!

THIS IS SO PREDICT-ABLE.
IT'S RIGHT OUT OF A MANGA STORY.
ぐ
5あ
WOBBLE
AHH.

THE SENSEI'S HERE.

ざっぱあーん
SPLASH

WE'RE THE ONES WHO SHOULD BE SCREAMING!
KYAAAA!


ME NEITHER.
YEAH, ME NEITHER.
BUT YOU'RE JUST OUR SENSEI, SO I DON'T REALLY CARE IF YOU SEE ME NAKED.

AREN'T YOU GUYS EMBARRASSED?
WELL, A LITTLE, I GUESS.

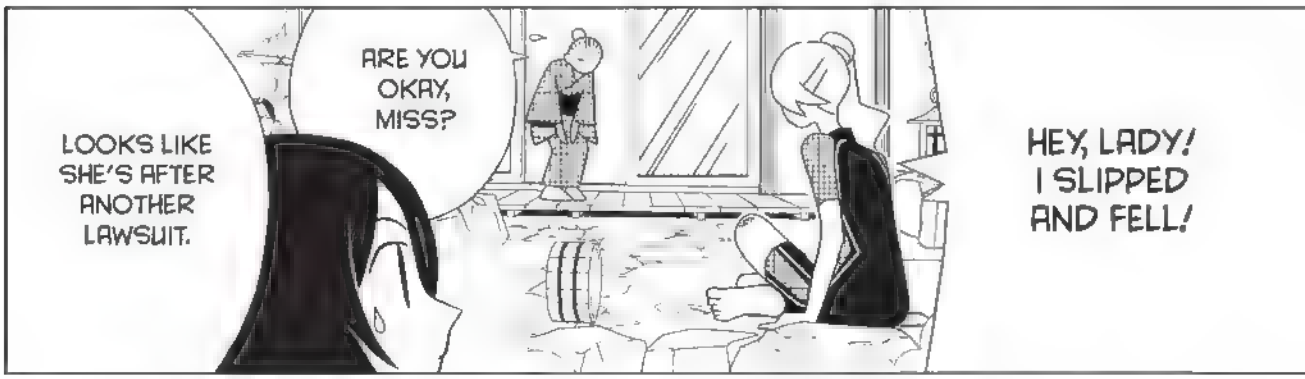
ARE YOU DETOXING TOO, SENSEI?
DETOXING?

I THINK WE HURT HIS FEELINGS.
SNIFFLE
SNIFF
TCH, THEY DON'T EVEN SEE ME AS A MAN.

EFFECTS
THIS GERMANIUM HOT SPRINGS IS PERFECT FOR DETOXING.
IT HELPS REMOVE ALL THE TOXINS BUILT UP INSIDE YOUR BODY.
REMOVES
OXINS. HEALS
ARIOUS KINDS OF
YEAH, IT MEANS GETTING RID OF TOXINS.
...BUILT UP INSIDE THE BODY?
IT REMOVES THE TOXINS...
WHY?
I DON'T NEED TO DETOX.
ざばっ
SPLASH
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
...COULD HAVE TERRIBLE CONSE-QUENCES.
GETTING RID OF THE TOXINS IN YOUR BODY...

I'VE BEEN IN HERE AWHILE. I BET I SWEAT OUT A LOT OF TOXINS.
はらり
FWLIP
WAH!
ずるっ
SLIP
TIME TO GET OUT.
I COULD UNDERSTAND A BIKINI... BUT A WET SUIT?
JUST WHEN THE READERS THOUGHT THEY WERE GONNA GET A LITTLE GLIMPSE...
OUCH.
SHE'S WEARING A WET SUIT!

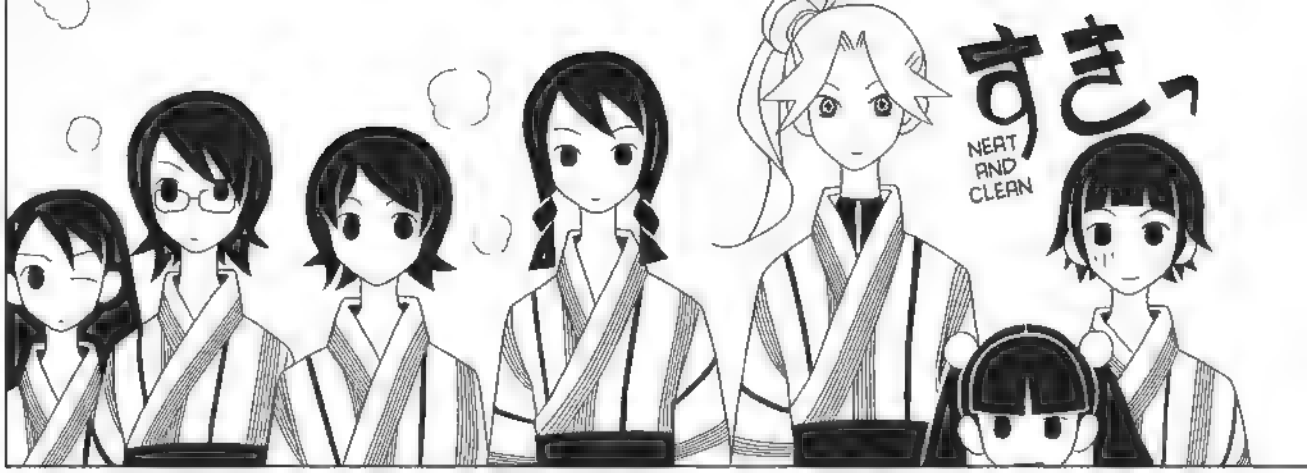
WOW, SHE REALLY DOES SEEM DIFFERENT...


LOOKS LIKE SHE'S AFTER ANOTHER LAWSUIT.
ARE YOU OKAY, MISS?
HEY, LADY! I SLIPPED AND FELL!

HER TOXIC ATTITUDE IS GONE!
STICK ぴと
THANKS.
WHA—?
DO YOU HAVE A BAND-AID?

CLICK める
CLICK める
CLICK める
HAHH ふーっ
ざばっ
SPLASH
DRIP だら
DRIP だら
DRIP だら

SHE SENT ME A NICE, ORDINARY TEXT MESSAGE... WITHOUT HER USUAL TOXIC TONE.
I HAD A WONDERFUL BATH.
BEEP
BEEP
NO WAY...
HAHH.
ほかほか
STEAMY
A PERSON'S INDIVIDUAL SPACE IS IMPORTANT.
NOW THAT SHE'S TOXIN FREE, SHE'S KEEPING HER DISTANCE FROM THE SENSEI!


すきっ
NEAT AND CLEAN

ほがからCHEERFUL
THIS KOBO-CHAN MANGA IS HILARIOUS.

つるんSMOOTH
MY WOUNDS ARE ALL HEALED.

AREN'T YOU HAPPY? EVERY-BODY'S FINALLY NORMAL.

EVERYBODY'S TOXIN FREE!

YOU DETOXED TOO, BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

つるんSMOOTH
LOOK HOW DULL EVERY-ONE IS NOW THAT THEY'RE TOXIN FREE.

DON'T CALL ME NORMAL! YOU MAKE ME SOUND SO AVERAGE.
IS THAT BECAUSE YOU WERE ALREADY NORMAL?

GOING TO COLLEGE ISN'T THE ONLY CHOICE YOU'VE GOT, YOU KNOW?
MY PARENTS SAID I HAVE TO GO TO COLLEGE.
I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING IS FIGURING OUT WHAT YOU WANNA STUDY IN COLLEGE.
OH MY GOD, THEY SOUND JUST LIKE THE KIDS ON THAT TV REALITY SHOW.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
I WONDER IF I CAN STUDY TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN.
WHEN YOU REMOVE THE TOXINS FROM SOMETHING, YOU CAN END UP LOSING ITS VERY ESSENCE.
I THINK IT'LL BE EVEN MORE POPULAR.
IF THINGS STAY THIS NORMAL, THIS SERIES... I MEAN, THIS CLASS WON'T LAST THROUGH SUMMER!
HERE'S A TOXIN-FREE BLACK JACK SENSEI.
BLA
SPLASH
ざばっ
THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF TOXIN-FREE STUFF THAT HAS SUNK TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS HOT SPRING!

DO YOU HAVE INSURANCE?
Reception
I CAUGHT A COLD...
WHAT'S WRONG?

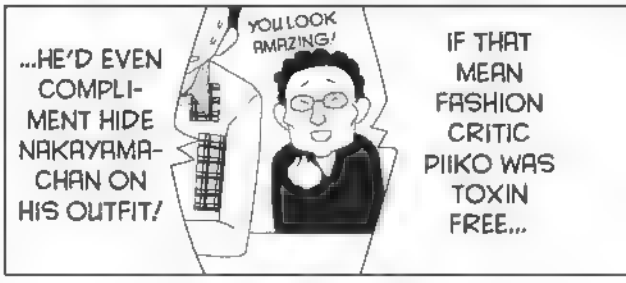
THAT JUST ISN'T COOL!
BLACK JACK ACCEPTING INSURANCE, TCH...

SINCE HE'S TOXIN FREE, HE'S PROBABLY A REAL, CERTIFIED DOCTOR NOW, SO HE HAS TO TAKE INSURANCE.
HE TAKES INSURANCE?
AND WHAT'S WITH THAT COMB-OVER?

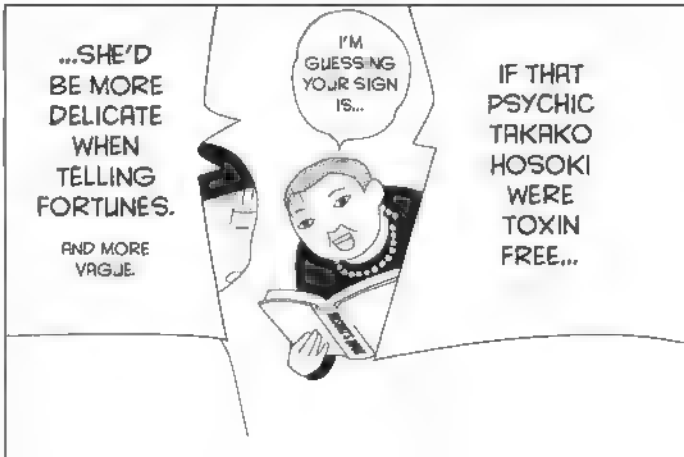
...HE'D BE TOTALLY BORING.
TAKE CARE NOW, MA'AM.
IF THAT INSULT COMIC SANDAYUU DOKU-MAMUSHI WERE TOXIN FREE...

YOU CAN'T JUST GO AROUND DETOXING INDISCRIMI-NATELY.
IF THE WATER IS TOO CLEAN, THERE WON'T BE ANY FISH!

...IT WOULD JUST BE A BORING TOWN FULL OF ELECTRONICS STORES!
ヨドバシ電器館
ラジオ会館
総武線
IF AKIHABARA WERE TOXIN FREE...


...HE'D EVEN COMPLI-MENT HIDE NAKAYAMA-CHAN ON HIS OUTFIT!
YOU LOOK AMAZING!
IF THAT MEAN FASHION CRITIC PIIKO WAS TOXIN FREE...

...HE'D BE EXACTLY THE WAY HE IS NOW!
HE'S JUST TOO CUTE TO PLAY A BAD GUY.
IF THE FAMOUS COMEDIAN GUITAR SAMURAI WERE TOXIN FREE...
切り指
SLICE


...SHE'D BE MORE DELICATE WHEN TELLING FORTUNES.
AND MORE VAGUE.
I'M GUESSING YOUR SIGN IS...
IF THAT PSYCHIC TAKAKO HOSOKI WERE TOXIN FREE...

- GOSSIP SHOWS WOULD BECOME TAME, LIKE → *HANAMARU MARKET.*
- THE TV SHOW *KOCHITARA JIBARAJYA!* WOULD BECOME → A SACCHARINE LOVEFEST.
- THE STAR OF THE TV DRAMA *IJIWARU BAASAN (MEAN GRANDMA)* → A WORTHLESS GOVERNOR OF TOKYO.
- *BUBKA* → *MYOJO.*
- FUKUZO MOGURO WOULD JUST BE → A WEIRD SALESMAN.
- *LORD OF THE FLIES* → "TWO YEARS' VACATION."
- BEJIITA → BEJIITA IN LOVE.
- THE POISON-HAND TECHNIQUE → REGULAR HANDSHAKE.
- NI CHANNEL → MIXI.
- RYUUTARO HASHIMOTO → DAIJIROU HASHIMOTO.
- MANABU OSHIO → THE GRAPHICS IN FINAL FANTASY.
- *DYBASTAR* → A BAD ANIME SERIES.
- COMIC MARKET → NONEXISTENT.

IF EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE WAS DETOXED, JUST THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

ばく CHOMP ばく CHOMP

ぎと GREASY

FRIED CHICKEN

YUM PUFFS FAST FOOD FLAVOR

USE EXTRA PRESERVA-TIVES AND ADDITIVES!

EXCUSE ME, COULD YOU PLEASE PREPARE DINNER FOR THESE GIRLS?

EVERY-BODY'S BACK TO NORMAL...

FWUP ぴろっ

HMM アナ アナ

イライラ IRRITATED

A TAIL

CLICK CLICK めるめる

ざん SPLASH

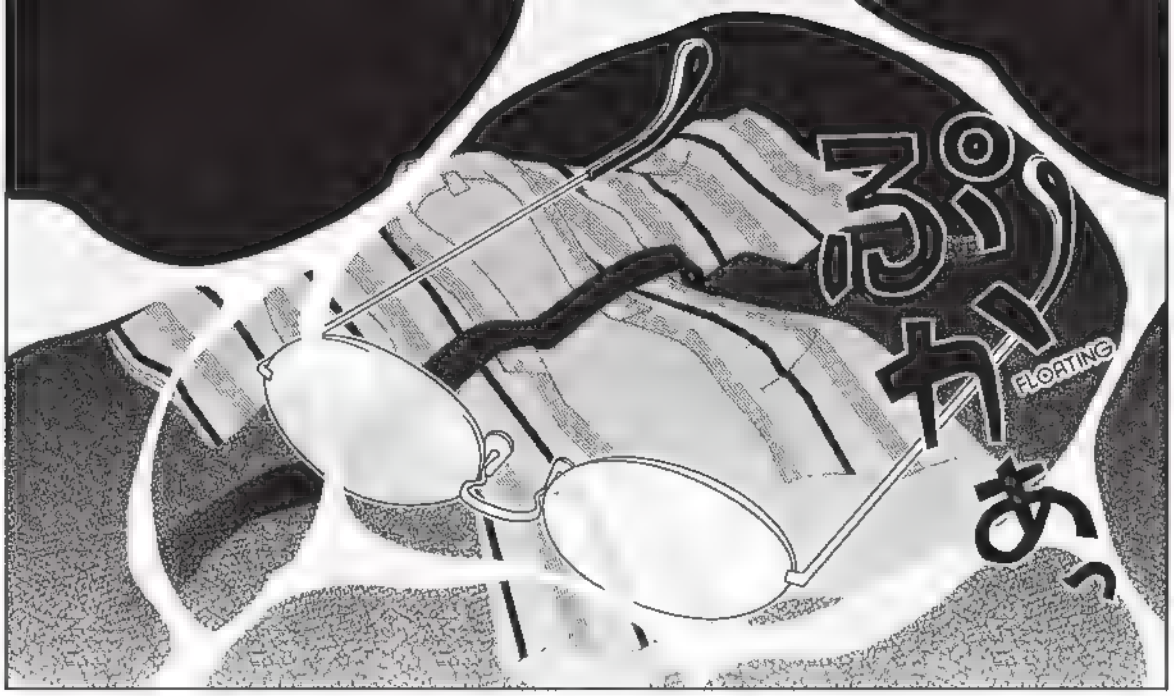
WAH.

どんっ BONK

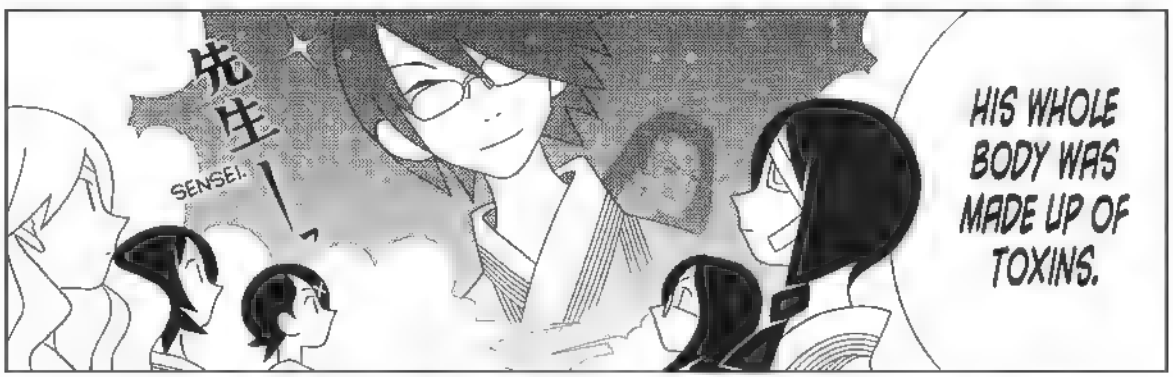
ぶく BUBBLE ぶく ぶく BUBBLE ぶく

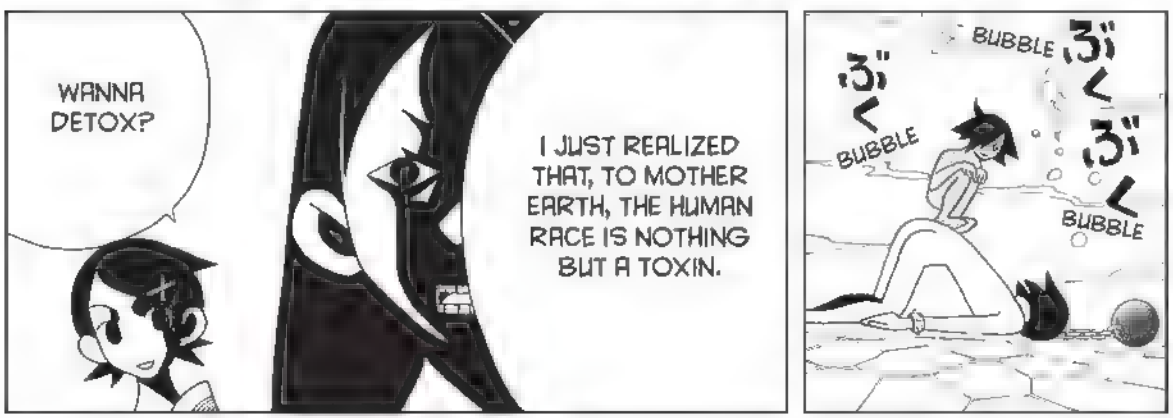
YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER.

WHY DON'T YOU TRY DETOXING, SENSEI?


ぷかぁ
FLOATING

THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HIM AFTER DETOXING.
SENSEI...


先生
SENSEI!
HIS WHOLE BODY WAS MADE UP OF TOXINS.


WANNA DETOX?
I JUST REALIZED THAT, TO MOTHER EARTH, THE HUMAN RACE IS NOTHING BUT A TOXIN.
BUBBLE
ぶく
BUBBLE
ぶく
ぶく
BUBBLE

TOXIN-FREE CHIRI-CHAN

CHAPTER 43

DRIP
ぽたっ
DRIP
ぽたっ
TSSSH
さら
TSSSH
さら
THE SEASON IS CHANGING AND THE SNOW IS STARTING TO MELT. THE COLDNESS... IS MELTING AWAY.

I HOPE THE COLDNESS IN YOUR LIFE...
...MELTS AWAY JUST LIKE THE SNOW, MAJIRU-KUN.
I NEVER GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO GET MARRIED. GO AWAY!
BUT, FATHER, THIS IS YOUR GRANDSON.
YOU KNOW, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HMMM, SNOW MELTING AWAY ISN'T ALWAYS A GOOD THING, YA KNOW.
.....

THAT'S WHAT MOST SNOW MELTING RESULTS IN.
JUST LOOK AT THIS! THE MELTED SNOW HAS TURNED INTO DIRTY, GRAY WATER.

I CALL IT NEGATIVE SNOW MELTING!

STOP THE CONSTRUC-TION!
STOP!
DANKO HOTEL CONSTRUCTION SITE
STOP!
ONE YEAR AGO
WHEN THEY STARTED BUILDING IT, THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD WAS IN AN UPROAR.
HOTEL
HOTEL
LOOK AT THAT LOVE HOTEL.

WE REFUSE TO LET THIS OBSCENITY ATTACK OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
Let's protect our peaceful neighborhood.
STOP
Japan
STOP!
JUST SAY NO TO THE LOVE HOTEL!

夜干
HOTEL
HOTEL
BUT IN THE END, THEY BUILT THE HOTEL ANYWAY.

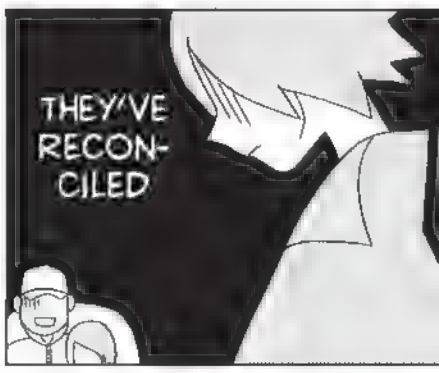
Hotel OCO
Overnight stay 8,000 yen*
Rest Only 5,000 yen**
TEL 040-072
AH.

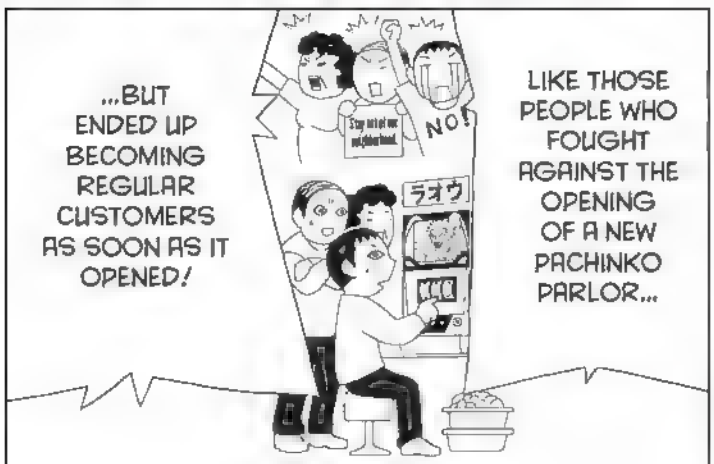
*$80 **$50

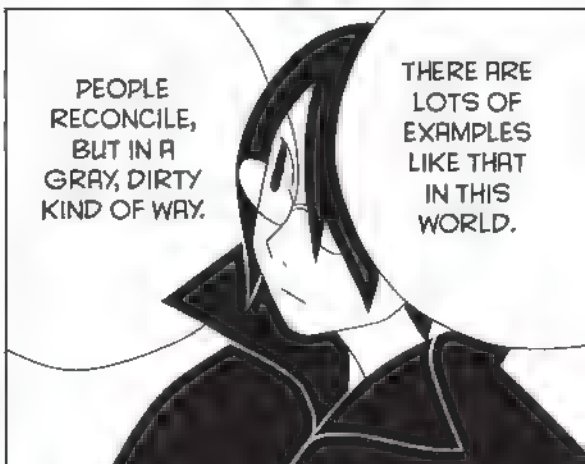
UH, WELL... YOU SEE...
YOU WERE THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION GROUP!

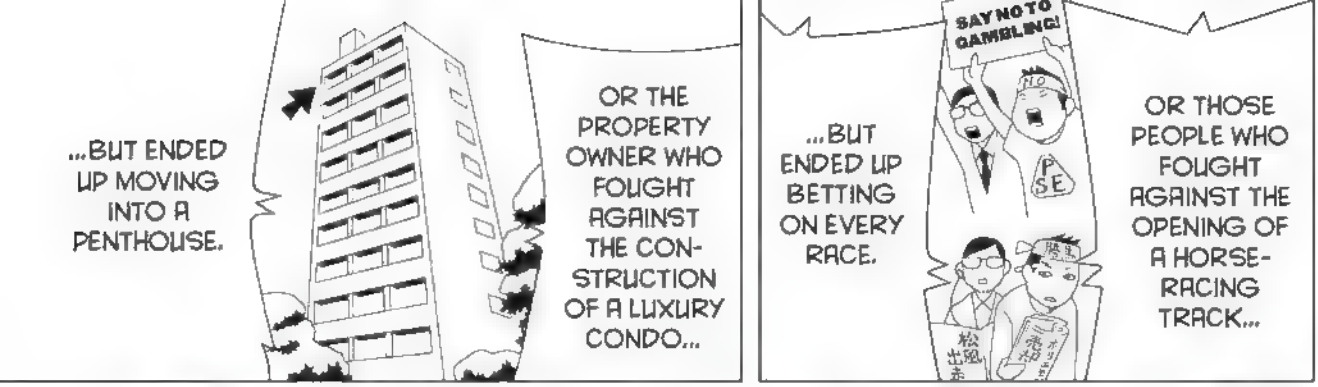
...IT'D BE A WASTE NOT TO USE IT.
WELL, THEY ENDED UP BUILDING THE HOTEL, SO...

IS IT REALLY?
THIS IS SNOW MELTING!

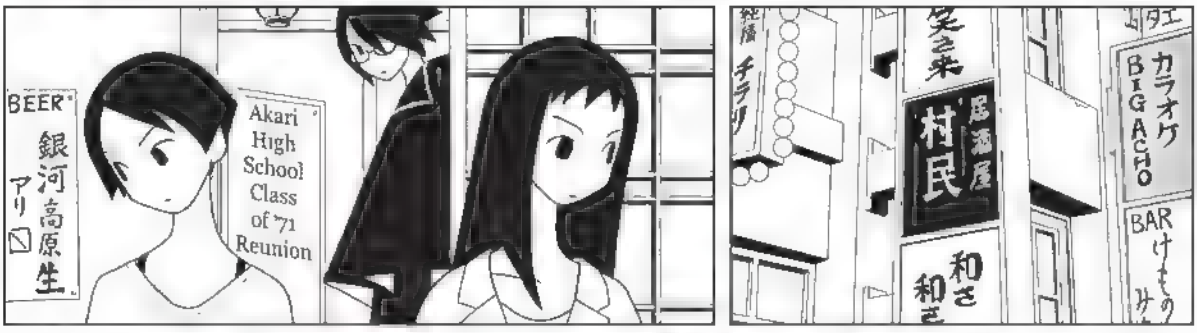

THEY'VE RECON-CILED


...BUT ENDED UP BECOMING REGULAR CUSTOMERS AS SOON AS IT OPENED!
LIKE THOSE PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE OPENING OF A NEW PACHINKO PARLOR...
NO!
ラオウ


PEOPLE RECONCILE, BUT IN A GRAY, DIRTY KIND OF WAY.
THERE ARE LOTS OF EXAMPLES LIKE THAT IN THIS WORLD.


...BUT ENDED UP MOVING INTO A PENTHOUSE.
OR THE PROPERTY OWNER WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LUXURY CONDO...
...BUT ENDED UP BETTING ON EVERY RACE.
SAY NO TO GAMBLING!
NO
PSE
OR THOSE PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE OPENING OF A HORSE-RACING TRACK...

THE WORLD IS FULL OF *NEGATIVE SNOW MELTING.*
...WHEN IT ACTUALLY OPENED, EVERYBODY STARTED SHOPPING THERE.
OH YEAH, WHEN DO*KI WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, PEOPLE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD WERE FIGHTING AGAINST IT, BUT...
UH.


BEER
銀河高原生
アリ
Akari High School Class of '71 Reunion
村民
BIGACHO
BAR

NISHIKIORI-KUN
THEY'VE HATED EACH OTHER TILL THIS DAY.
THOSE TWO GIRLS USED TO BE IN LOVE WITH THE SAME GUY IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND THEY GOT INTO CATFIGHTS ALL THE TIME.

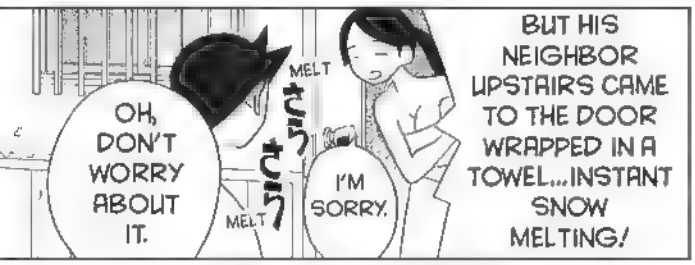
LONG TIME NO SEE.
EVERYBODY WAS EXPECTING TO SEE THEM FIGHT TONIGHT...
GLARE

THAT'S SNOW MELTING.
CH-CHEERS.
さらさら
MELT
MELT
THIS WORLD IS FULL OF GRAY SNOW MELTING.
WHEN TWO GUYS GET DUMPED BY THE SAME GIRL, THEY BECOME FAST FRIENDS. NOTHING FORGES A FRIENDSHIP LIKE HAVING A COMMON ENEMY.
I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN OUR GRAY SNOW-MELTING SOCIETY!
THERE'S NO HOPE!

BOOKS ケイ
あはは
HA HA HA
HUH? DID THOSE TWO RECONCILE?
AH.
ARE YOU SERIOUS? HOW COULD YOU SEE THESE TWO AS A COUPLE?
ONE YEAR AGO
THEY REALLY HATED EACH OTHER.
THAT'S FINE WITH ME!
Guru and Rau
GROSS! I DON'T WANNA WORK WITH YOU ANYMORE!
Gunji and Akira
SPRING
WINTER
FALL
YEAH, YOU TOO.
L-LONG TIME NO SEE.
AH.
AH.
さら
MELT
さら
MELT
MELT
YEAH, GUNJI AND AKIRA?
YOU'RE GETTING GUNJI AND AKIRA?

NOW THAT'S NEGATIVE SNOW MELTING.
WE DECIDED TO MAKE A DOUJINSHI TOGETHER AGAIN.
REMEMBER MY EX-BOYFRIEND TAKASHI?
OH YEAH.
HE WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH HIS NEIGHBORS*, AND...
TAKASHI
*SEE VOLUME ONE
SHUT UP!
HE USED TO COMPLAIN THAT HIS NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR WAS TOO LOUD.
HAVE YOU BEEN BEHIND ME THIS WHOLE TIME?
YEP.
I'M GONNA SAY SOME-THING!
ドン KNOCK
ドン KNOCK
AH.
さら MELT
さら MELT
OH, I'M SORRY. WAS THE MUSIC TOO LOUD?

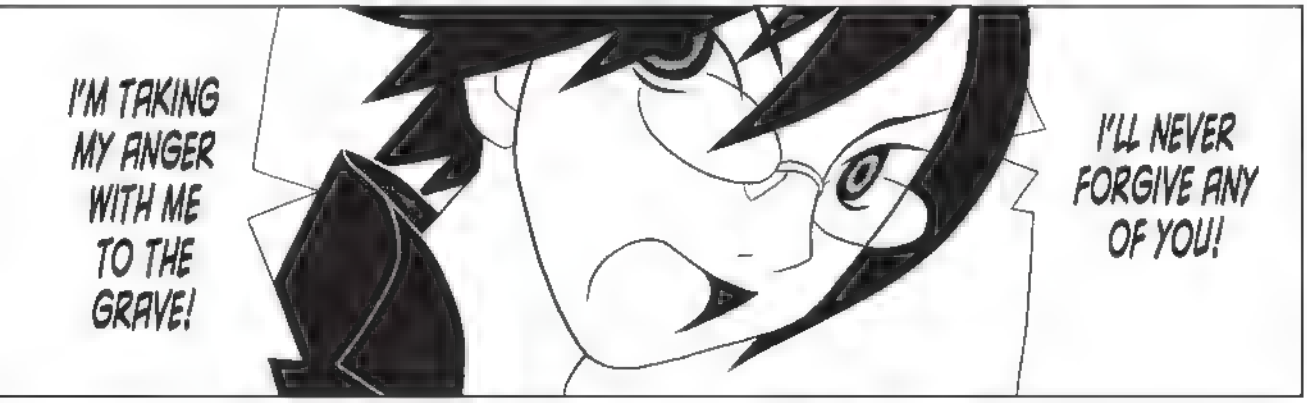
ACTUALLY, NOW HE GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO LISTEN TO HIS NEIGHBOR...NOW THAT'S SNOW MELTING.
HE'S NOT EVEN BOTHERED BY THE NOISE ANYMORE...


OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M SORRY.
MELT
さらさら
MELT
BUT HIS NEIGHBOR UPSTAIRS CAME TO THE DOOR WRAPPED IN A TOWEL...INSTANT SNOW MELTING!

- A BAND BREAKS UP CITING MUSICAL DIFFERENCES, BUT THEY RUN OUT OF MONEY AND DECIDE TO REUNITE...SNOW MELTING.
- THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN BLAME EACH OTHER FOR THEIR MISTAKES...SNOW MELTING.
- AFTER AN AFRICAN CELEBRITY IS ARRESTED, IT TURNS OUT THAT HE WAS LYING ABOUT HIS AGE. LATER HE OFFERS THIS DEFENSE: "IT HAPPENS A LOT IN AFRICA."...SNOW MELTING.
- THE SAIYAJIN ARRIVE AND GOKUU AND PIKKORO RECONCILE ...SNOW MELTING.
- A CELEBRITY GETS INTO A BIG ARGUMENT WITH HER AGENCY WHEN SHE REFUSES TO POSE NUDE, BUT LATER AN UNAUTHORIZED NUDE PHOTO SURFACES. FINALLY, SHE AGREES TO PUBLISH AN OFFICIAL NUDE PHOTO BOOK...SNOW MELTING.
- A GUY GETS PISSED OFF AT A PORN SITE'S CUSTOMER SUPPORT, BUT HE FORGETS ALL ABOUT IT ONCE HE GETS THE VIDEO HE ORDERED...SNOW MELTING.
- A CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO NATIONS IS RESOLVED THANKS TO A BEAUTIFUL TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL...SNOW MELTING.

I DON'T NEED ANY HALF-ASSED RECONCILIATION! NO SNOW MELTING FOR ME.
NOBODY WHO BROUGHT ANGER AND HUMILIATION UPON ME WILL BE FORGIVEN... EVER.
MY HEART SHALL BE FOREVER FROZEN!
YOU PUT TRASH IN MY HOOD, DIDN'T YOU?
RIN-SAN, AT 11 AM, ON APRIL 3RD, 1996...
LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
WHOA, HE'S SO OBSES-SIVE.
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT!
...THAT INCLUDED THE WORD "BALDING."
OTONASHI-SAN, SINCE LAST YEAR, YOU'VE SENT ME A TOTAL OF 342 TEXT MESSAGES...
...WHEN I SAID HELLO TO YOU IN THE HALLWAY.
HITOU-SAN, ON OCTOBER 9TH LAST YEAR, YOU IGNORED ME...
HUH?

KOBUSHI-SAN, EARLIER THIS YEAR YOU KICKED ME IN THE SHIN WHEN THE READERS WEREN'T LOOKING, DIDN'T YOU?
I DID? I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.

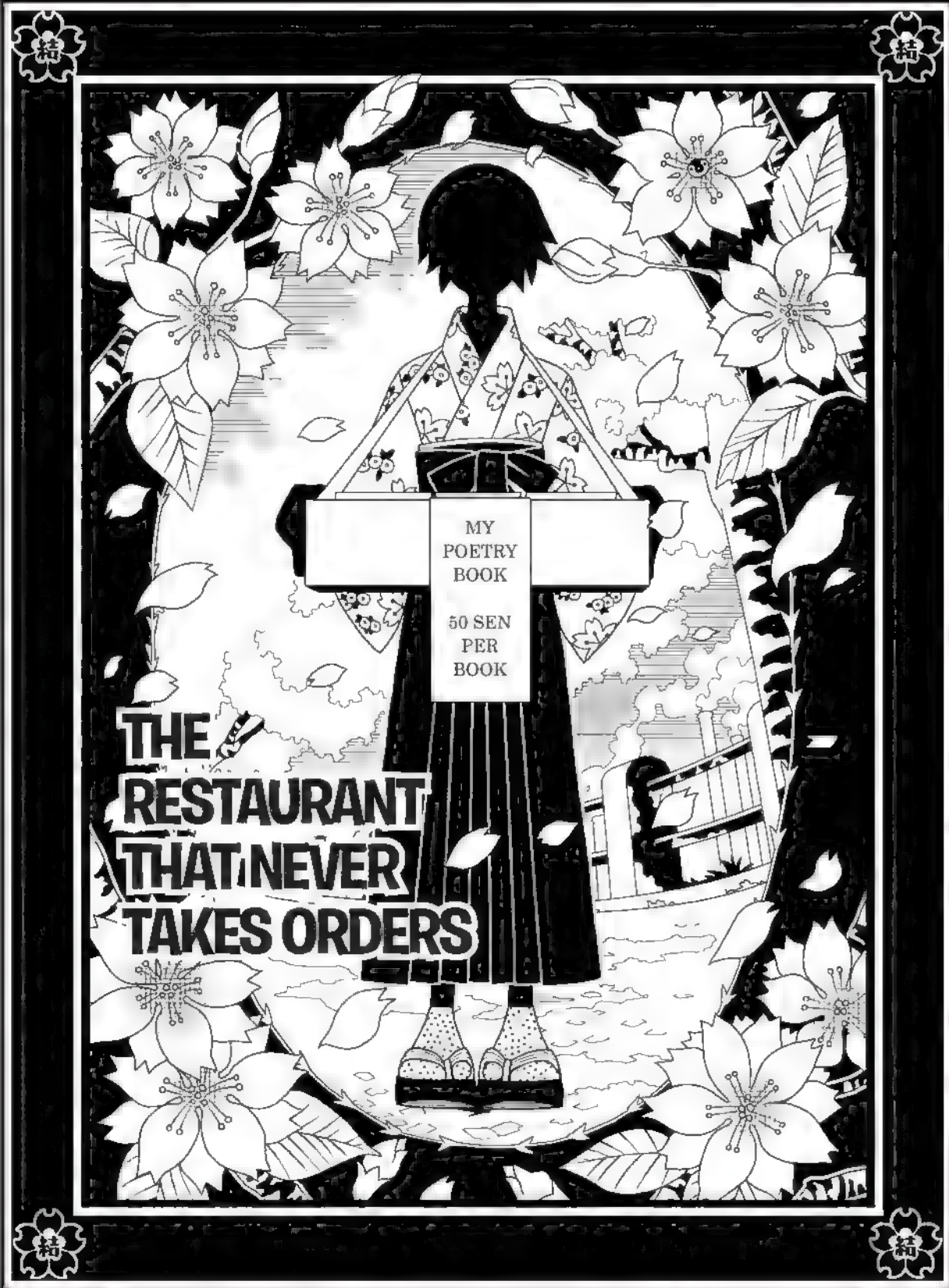


HOW CAN YOU EVEN REMEMBER STUPID LITTLE INCIDENTS LIKE THOSE
IT'S REALLY DISTURB-ING.
YES, WELL, CRIMINALS RARELY REMEMBER WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO THEIR VICTIMS.

- MAKIKO AND MUNEO
- KAKU-SAN AND HIS WIFE
- FUMIYA AND TAKAMOKU
- HOSAKA AND HOTEI
- NABETSUNE AND BUNSHUN
- GU*** YUUZO AND MO** FUYUKI
- EIKICHI YA**** AND JOHNNY **KURA
- FUKUSHIMA AND KAGOSHIMA
- K RA AND L
- SOUSOU AND ENSHOU
- NAKAMURA AND PHILIPPE TROUSSIER
- MURASAKI SHIKIBU AND SEISHOUNAGON
- WASEDA UNIVERSITY AND KEIO UNIVERSITY
- DOGS AND MONKEYS

AHH, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A GARBAGE CAN FOR TWO HOURS NOW.
I REALLY WANNA GET RID OF THIS CAN.
[COFFEE]
WAIT UNTIL YOU FIND A GARBAGE CAN.
JUST TOSS IT ONTO THE STREET.
USE A GARBAGE CAN!
TOSS IT!
SNOW MELTING
COFFEE
LOOKS LIKE HER HEART'S GONNA BE FROZEN FOREVER TOO.
SO, IT WAS YOU WHO TOSSED THAT CAN INTO MY BIKE'S BASKET, WASN'T IT, SENSEI?
IT'S NOT SO TERRIBLE.
QUIT OVER-REACTING.
SEE?
YOU THREW IT IN SOMEONE'S BICYCLE BASKET? HOW TERRIBLE.

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS THAT SURFACE WHEN THE SNOW MELTS.


MY
POETRY
BOOK
50 SEN
PER
BOOK
THE RESTAURANT THAT NEVER TAKES ORDERS

CHAPTER 44

MARCH IS ALMOST OVER.
WE'D BETTER START GETTING ORGANIZED...
...SO THAT WE CAN START FRESH IN APRIL.

I'M GRADUATING FROM TOKYO.
I DON'T BELONG HERE ANYMORE.
I'VE DONE EVERYTHING THAT I WANTED TO DO.
I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...FROM TOKYO.
I'M GRADUATING...
...SELF-COMPLETE!
HOW DARE YOU...

...BEFORE APRIL COMES ALONG!
IT'S SPRING-TIME! IT'S A MUST TO SELF-COMPLETE...
...WITH GIRLS.
I'M DONE...
I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN WITH A GIRL, HAVE YOU?
MAN-SEIBASHI-KUN.
SHOCK
ズゴアァン
QUIT SELF-COMPLETING, YOU VIRGIN!
I'VE HAD IT WITH GIRLS.
AND THERE'RE NO LOLITA GIRLS IN MY CLASS!
REAL GIRLS HAVE MUSTACHES AND DARK NIPPLES.
OH, THAT ONE...
THE LATEST VOLUME IS OUT.

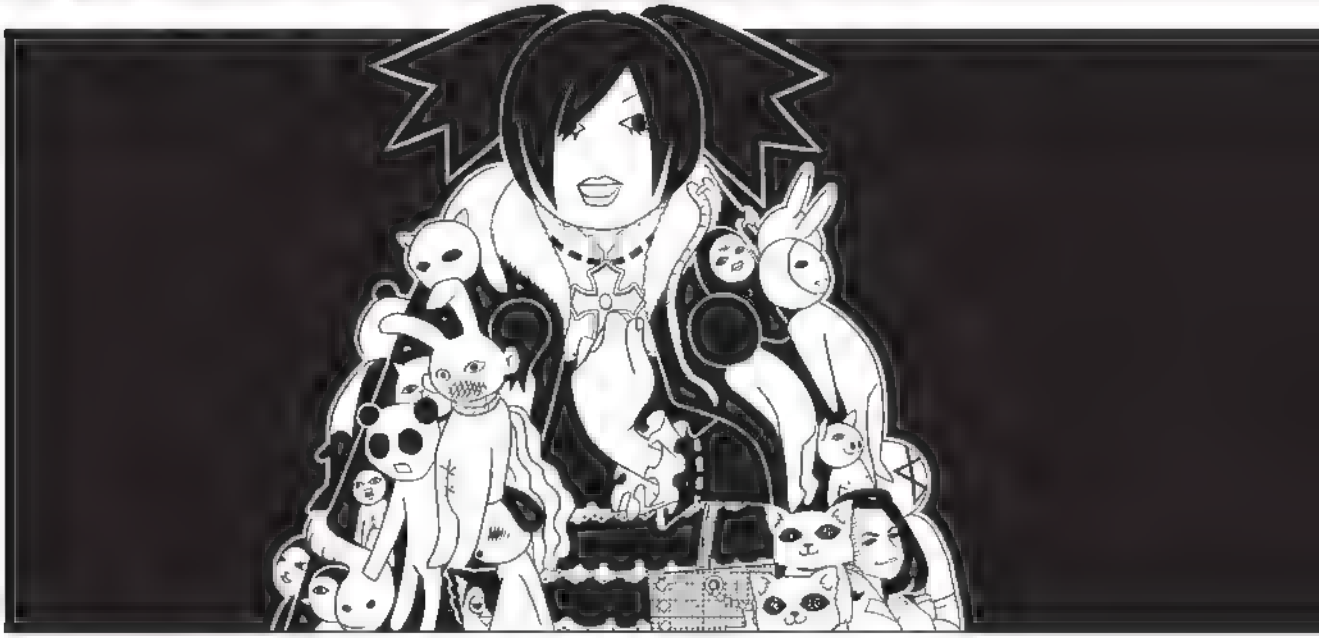
I'M KIND OF DONE WITH THAT SERIES.
CALM DOWN, SENSEI.
HAVE YOU EVEN CONSIDERED HOW THAT MIGHT MAKE THE WRITERS FEEL?
ぬあああ
AAAAHH
HOW DARE YOU SELF-COMPLETE!
MAYBE IT WAS ONE OF THE WRITERS...HE MUST'VE SENSED US TALKING ABOUT HIS BOOK.
WHY?
SORRY, IT WAS AS IF I WAS POSSESSED BY SOMEBODY FOR A MOMENT THERE... I COMPLETELY LOST MYSELF.
OH, I JUST RAN INTO THEM.
CHIE-SENSEI.
HI, ITOSHIKI-SENSEI. WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT WITH YOUR STUDENTS ON THE WEEKEND?
SHOCK
YEAH, IT'S REALLY BEEN A LONG TIME.
LONG TIME NO SEE.

?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU HAD A BOYFRIEND?
IS HE CHIE-SENSEI'S STALKER?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM.
WHO'S THAT?
WAIT...WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LET GO OF ME? WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
...I'M JUST GONNA LET GO...OF YOU.
WELL, I DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M SEEING HERE, BUT I'M GONNA BEHAVE LIKE A MATURE ADULT...
HE FELL IN LOVE AND SELF-COMPLETED THE WHOLE THING!
わーん
WAH!
GOODBYE, I LOVED YOU!
...WITH SELF-COMPLETING PERSONALITIES.
ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN COUNSELING A LOT OF PEOPLE...

THEY LIVE IN THEIR OWN LITTLE WORLDS.
THEY DON'T CARE WHAT OTHERS THINK.

YOU KNOW, PEOPLE WHO GET ALL EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING, AND THEN COME TO INANE CONCLUSIONS ALL BY THEMSELVES.
SELF-COMPLETING PERSONALITIES?

THERE'RE LOTS OF PEOPLE LIKE THAT HERE TOO.

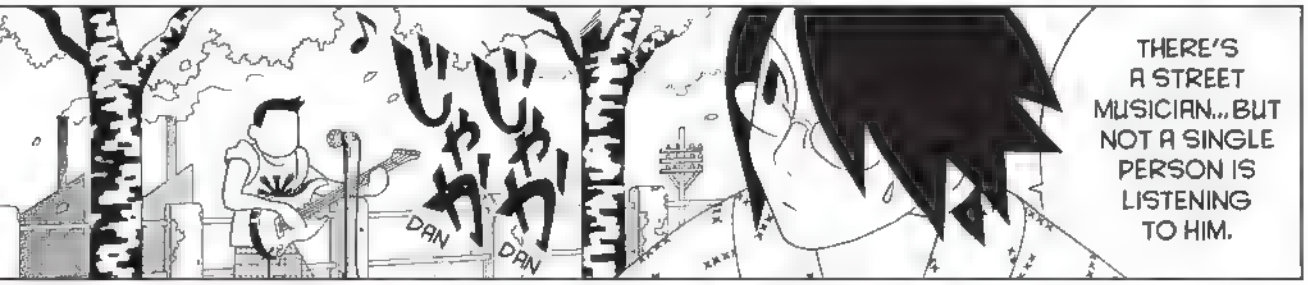


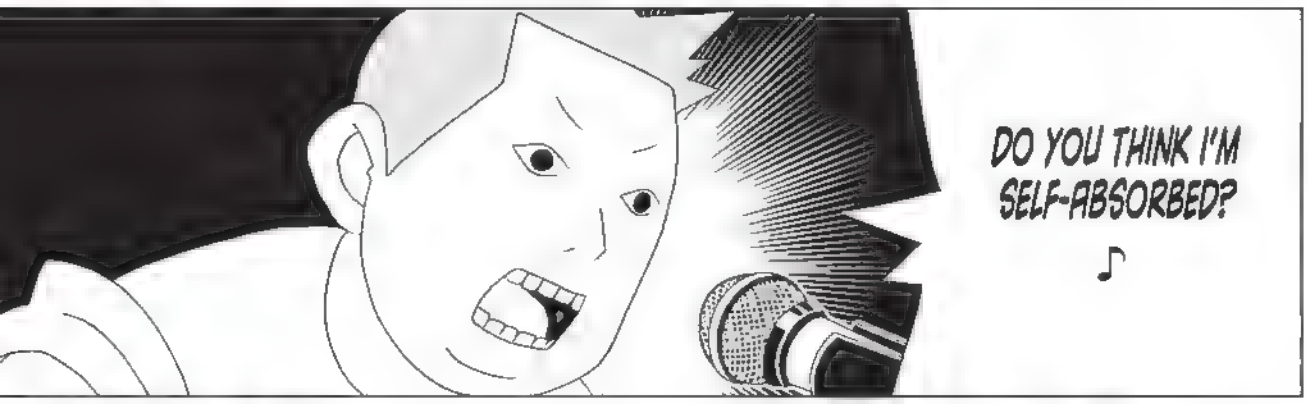
...WHAT'S WITH ALL THOSE DOLLS?
UM, I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT FASHION, BUT...

WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS STYLE?
.....

IT IS WHAT IT IS.

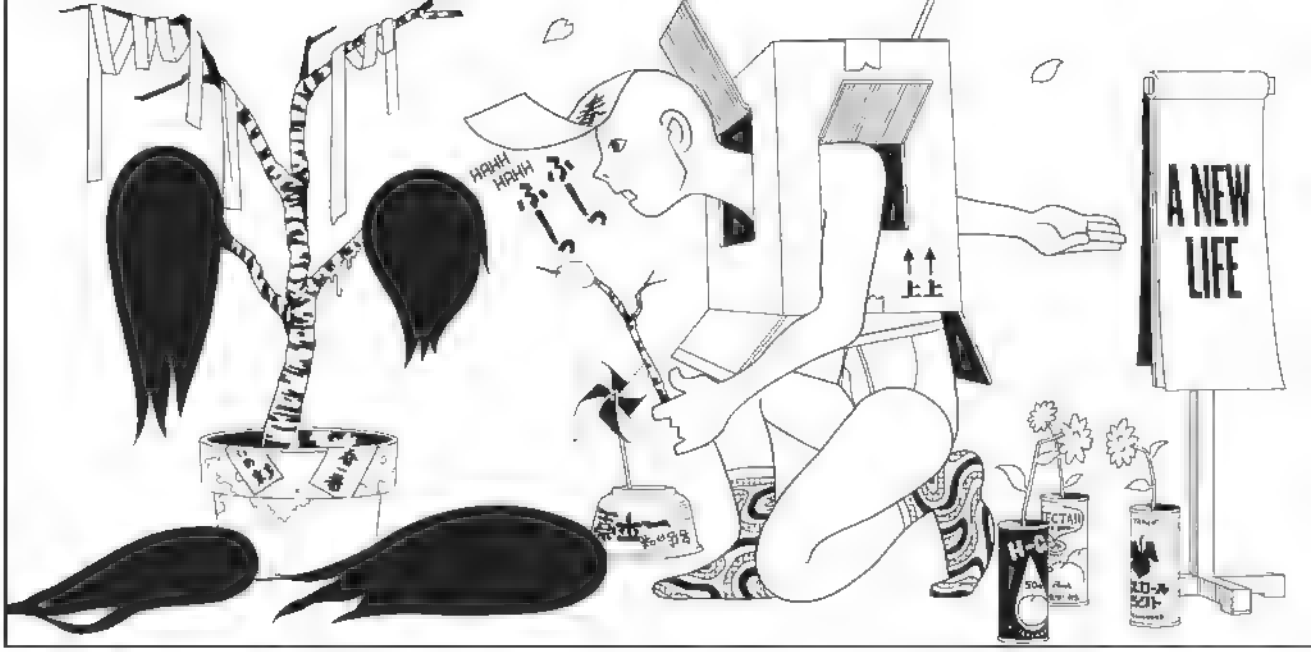
IF I LEFT A SINGLE DOLL AT HOME, HE'D BE SO SAD AND LONESOME.
IN HER WORLD, EVERYTHING IS PERFECT THE WAY IT IS.
SHE'S ALREADY COME TO HER OWN CONCLUSION, SO SHE'S NOT GONNA LISTEN TO ANYBODY ELSE'S OPINION.


じゃか
じゃか
DAN
DAN
THERE'S A STREET MUSICIAN... BUT NOT A SINGLE PERSON IS LISTENING TO HIM.


DO YOU THINK I'M SELF-ABSORBED?
♪

I SEE.
HE'S A SELF-COMPLETER. AS LONG AS HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT HE'S DOING, HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT ANYONE ELSE THINKS.

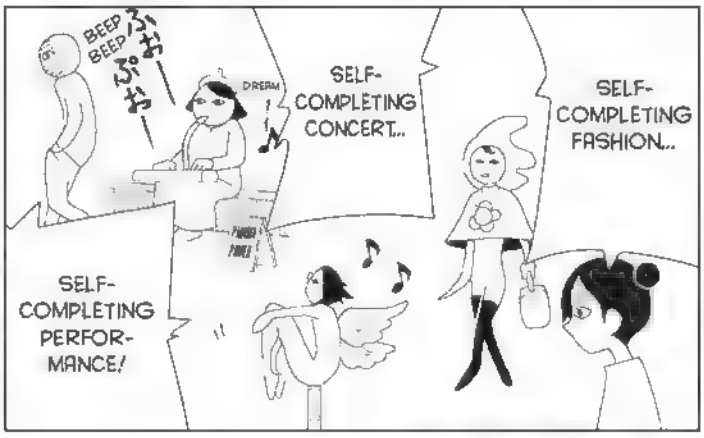
YAY.
♪
BYAAAA
ガシャーン
YES, YES I DO.

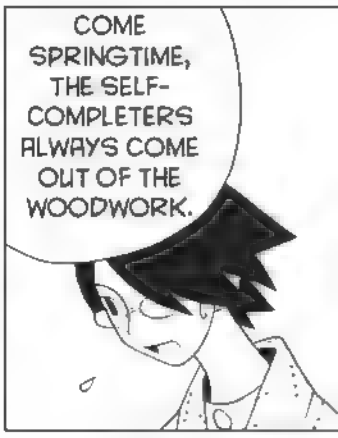

A NEW LIFE

HARU URARA
IT IS WHAT IT IS.

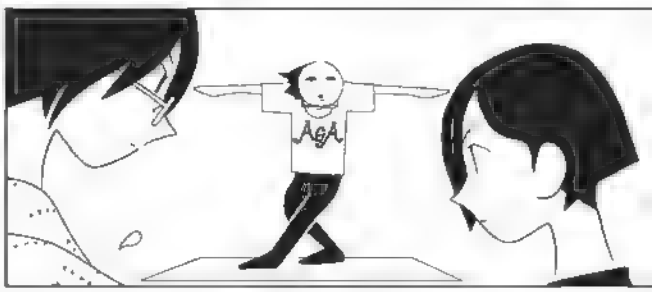
WHAT IS THAT?

100 Jokes


BEEP BEEP
DREAM
SELF-COMPLETING CONCERT...
SELF-COMPLETING FASHION...
SELF-COMPLETING PERFORMANCE!


COME SPRINGTIME, THE SELF-COMPLETERS ALWAYS COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK.

FWUP
FWUP
FWAHHHH

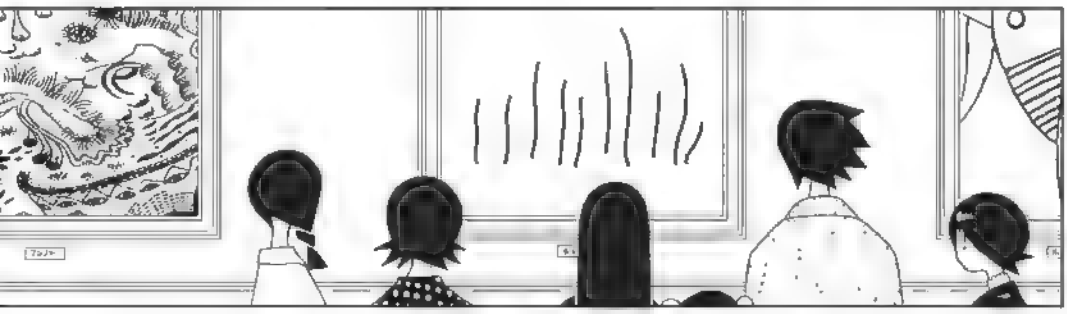


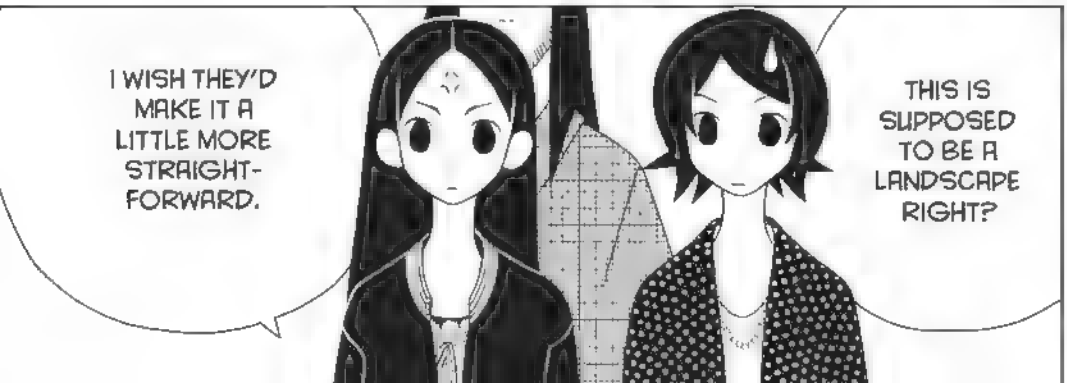
JUST LOOK AT THEM...
SELF-COMPLETING JOKE
THUD

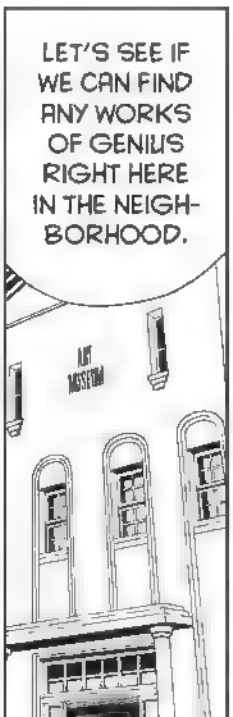
- VINCENT VAN GOGH • LEV SERGEIVITCH TERMEN
- FRANZ PETER SCHUBERT • ANDY KAUFMAN
- GUSTAV MAHLER • KENJI MIYAZAWA
- DOUSHI MORITA • MENDEL'S LAW (OF GENETICS)
- THE JAPANESE MAN WHO INVENTED THE BIKE DURING THE EDO PERIOD
- COMEDIAN ZOU-SAN NO POTTO
- *COMPLICATION SHAKEDOWN* BY MOTOHARU SANO (PROBABLY THE FIRST JAPANESE RAP SONG)

- TAMA PUBLISHING COMPANY
- DR. NAKAMATSU'S ENGINE
- FILMS DIRECTED BY KAZUAKI KIRIYA
- ARTIST TSURUTARO KATAOKA
- IZUMIYA STYLE KYOGEN
- KOUBOUHORI-GERM
- DOUZO MI**'S SECOND SINGLE
- MANABU OSHIO'S MUSIC
- ZICO'S STRATEGY
- THAT AMERICAN BASEBALL UMPIRE
- THE MOVIE *CA** WOMAN*

PROBABLY IN ABOUT THIRTY THOUSAND YEARS.
AND THEN YOU'VE GOT PEOPLE AND THINGS THAT AREN'T RECOGNIZED YET, BUT COULD BE SOMEDAY IN THE FUTURE!

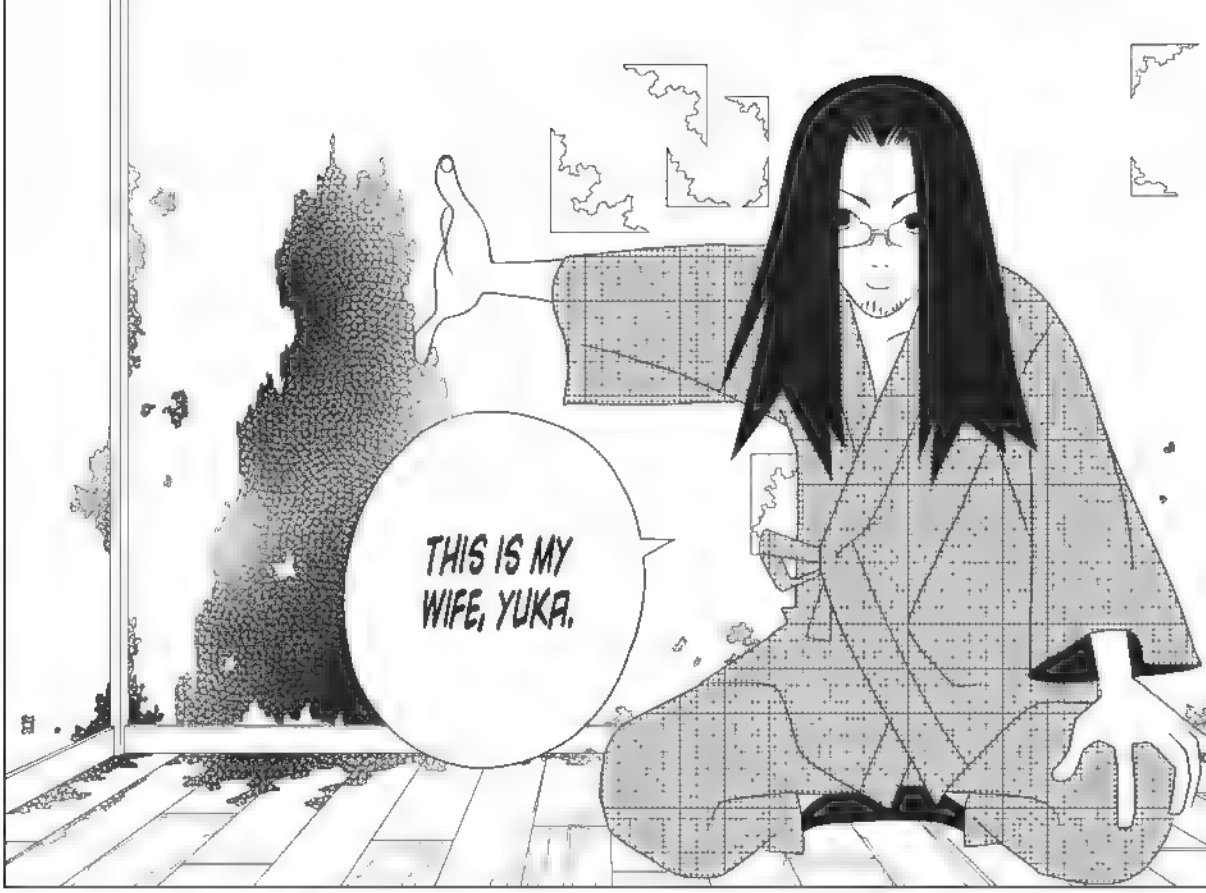




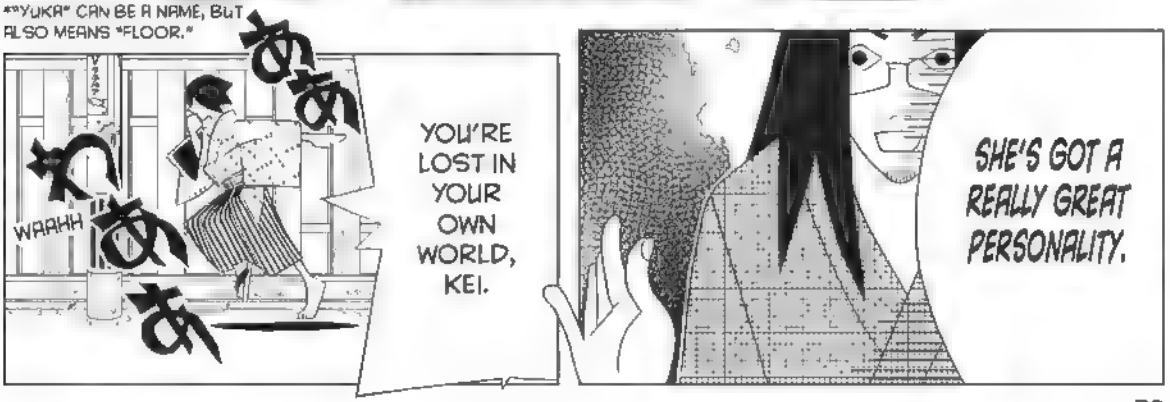


YOINK
HYA!
IT IS WHAT IT IS.
I'M KEI ITOSHIKI, THE ARTIST BEHIND THAT PAINTING.
WHO ARE YOU?
KEI!
YOUR HAIR'S SURE GOTTEN LONG.
YOU'RE ZEKKEI-SENSEI!
KEI ITOSHIKI.
ACTUALLY, KEI WOULD APPEAR TO BE A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A SELF-COMPLETER.
THIS IS PERFECT EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY PAINTING?
HUH?
AND THIS LINE RIGHT HERE REP-RESENTS TOKYO TOWER.

ARE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?
HA HA HA
REALLY? I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKE IT!
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T GET IT.
AND THERE WAS THAT TIME HE CREATED HIS OWN RELIGION AND DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO IT.
KYAA.
OH, HOLY CATFISH GOD.
ONE TIME, HE CREATED HIS OWN STYLE OF MARTIAL ARTS AND CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT IT WAS THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
KEI HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL!
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IN A JIFFY.
SWIP
TAKE THIS.
COUGH
DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
YEAH, RIGHT...
GO AHEAD, TRY IT. IT'S A SECRET MEDICINAL FORMULA THAT I INVENTED MYSELF.
SWING SWING
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU...
ATELIER KEI
HUH? WHA—? WHEN DID YOU GET MARRIED?
OH YEAH, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY WIFE.
KYAA!
YOINK
YOU'LL FEEL ALL BETTER.



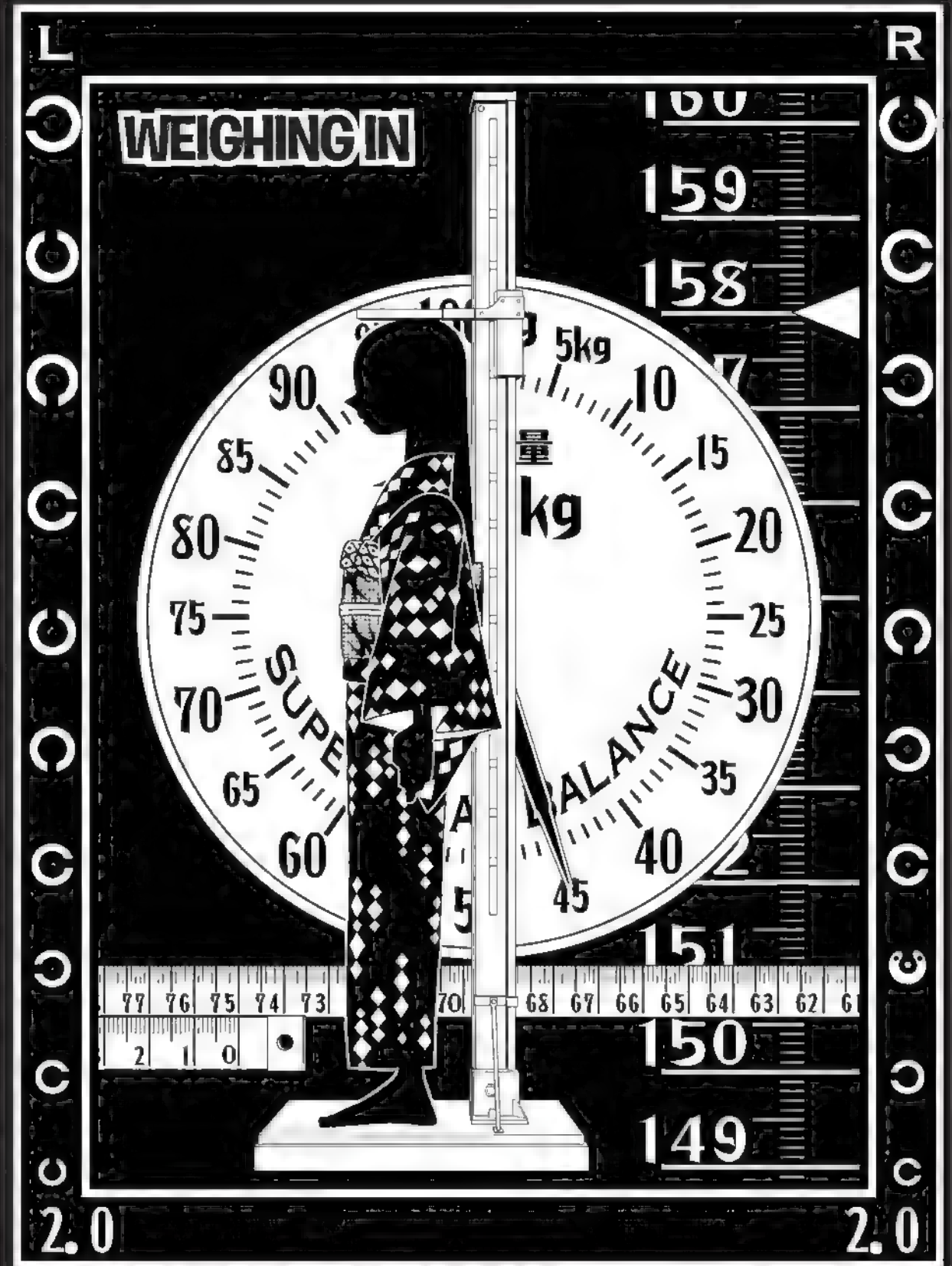
*"YUKA" CAN BE A NAME, BUT ALSO MEANS "FLOOR."



ITOSHIKI FAMILY, SECOND SON OF HIROYUKI ITOSHIKI

KEI ITOSHIKI

SELF-COMPLETING ARTIST



CHAPTER 45

CLASS 2-HE
2-HE
OTONASHI
SLIDE
OH NO... I GAINED WEIGHT.
OH YEAH, TODAY IS WEIGHING-IN DAY.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF MEASURING WHAT'S ON THE OUTSIDE?
IN THE END, IT'LL BE REDUCED TO ASHES AND SPRINKLED OVER AYERS ROCK.
THE HUMAN BODY WILL EVENTUALLY ERODE AND DECAY ANYWAY.
ATTENDANCE
NUMBER OF HIT SONGS
COMPANY'S STOCK PRICE
800 BILLION YEN
NUMBER OF BOOKS PUBLISHED
CALORIES
JUST LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO JAPAN RIGHT NOW! IT'S ALL BECAUSE WE DEVOTE TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO MEASURING WHAT'S ON THE OUTSIDE.
IT'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE THAT'S IMPORTANT, RIGHT?
I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN OUR SURFACE-WEIGHING SOCIETY!
IT'S HOPE-LESS.

WE'RE GONNA HAVE A MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT DAY!
THERE-FORE...

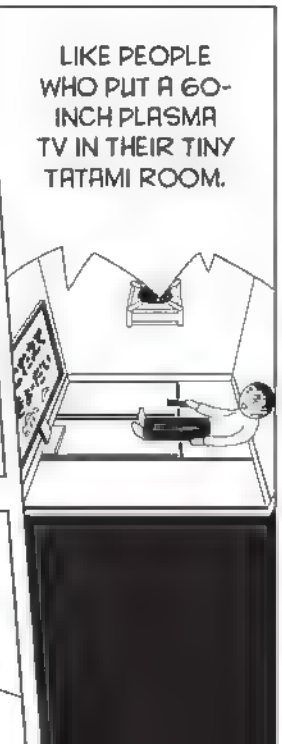
IT MEANS WE'RE GONNA MEASURE YOUR VALUE AS A HUMAN BEING.
"MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT"? WHAT'S THAT?

...AND LIVE YOUR LIFE ACCORDINGLY!
I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW YOUR PERSONAL MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT...

OR BROAD-CASTERS WHO AIR NAUGHTY LATE-NIGHT TV SHOWS DURING PRIME TIME!

OR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS WHO BRING A BAG OF SUPER EXPENSIVE, GOURMET COOKIES ON A FIELD TRIP

WHAT A LOSER.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GUY?
OR THE GUY WHO TALKS SHIT ABOUT SLACKERS EVEN THOUGH HE HIMSELF IS A TOTAL SLACKER.


LIKE PEOPLE WHO PUT A 60-INCH PLASMA TV IN THEIR TINY TATAMI ROOM.

THERE'RE LOTS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO DO THINGS THAT GO COMPLETELY AGAINST THEIR MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT.

- PLAYING T-BALL IN TOKYO DOME.
- APPLYING TO TOKYO UNIVERSITY WHEN YOU BARELY GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL.
- HAVING LONG HAIR EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BALDING.
- BULLET TRAINS PASSING THROUGH A RURAL TOWN.
- HOT SPRINGS JUST FOR DOGS.
- BALLPLAYER HIROKAZU IBATA BATTING THIRD.
- HAVING THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN A COUNTRY WHERE 90% OF THE WORLD'S EXECUTIONS TAKE PLACE.
- A TODDLER WHO CAN SPEAK ENGLISH LIKE AN AMERICAN.
- USING BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY FOR A CREDIT CARD WITH A CREDIT LINE OF ONLY 5,000 YEN*.
- A 10,000 YEN** JACKET ON SALE AT FASHION CENTER SHIMA**RA

JUST THINK OF ALL THE EXAMPLES IN THIS WORLD WHERE PEOPLE GO AGAINST THEIR MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT.

*$50 **$100

YOU SHOULDN'T USE TWO PAGES FOR THE TITLE IF YOUR MANGA IS ONLY TWELVE PAGES LONG.

...YOUR RENT SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF YOUR TOTAL INCOME.

IF YOU LIVE IN AN APART-MENT...

MEASUREMENT ROOM

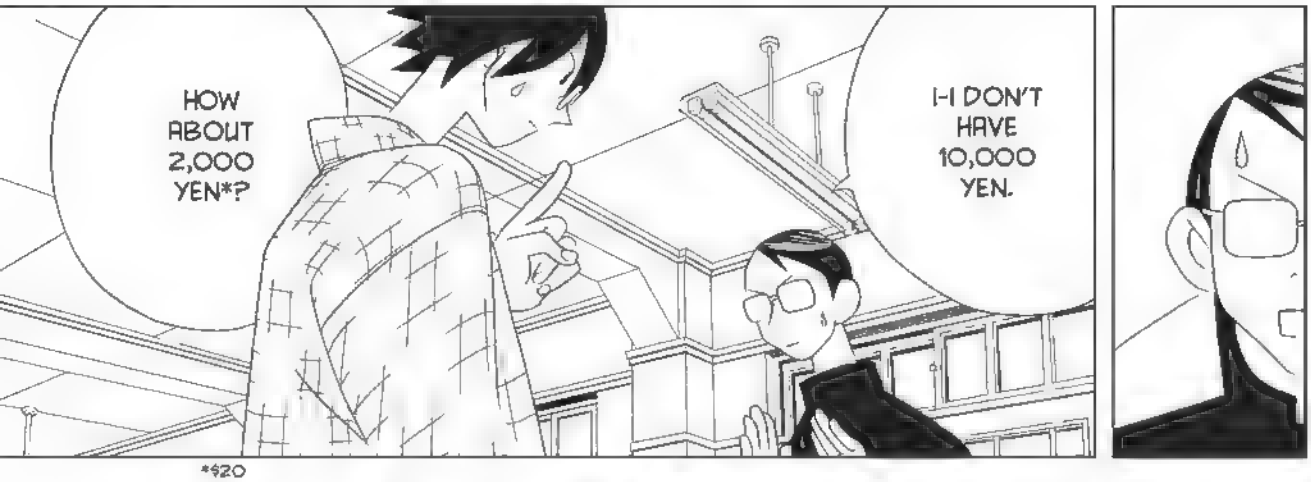
I'VE PREPARED A SPECIAL ROOM, AND I WANT YOU TO COME IN ONE AT A TIME.

SO TODAY, WE WILL TAKE EVERYBODY'S MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT.

SLIDE ガラッ

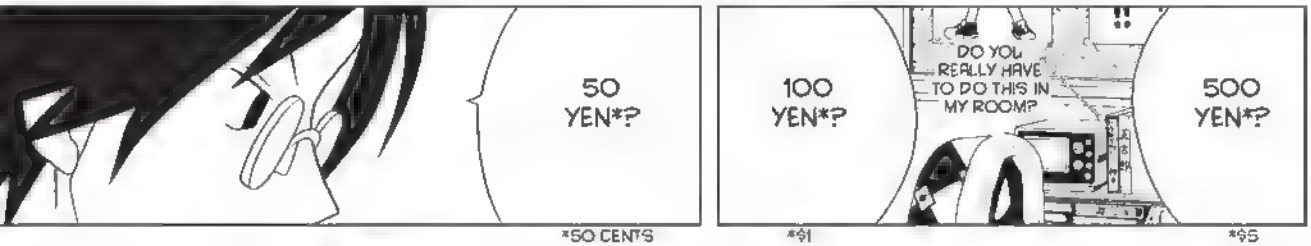
HELLO.

*$100



*$20

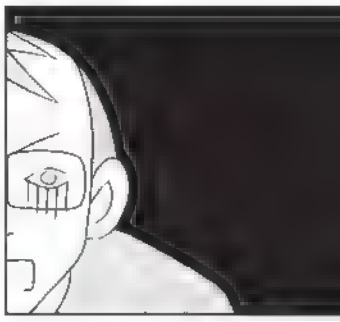
*$10

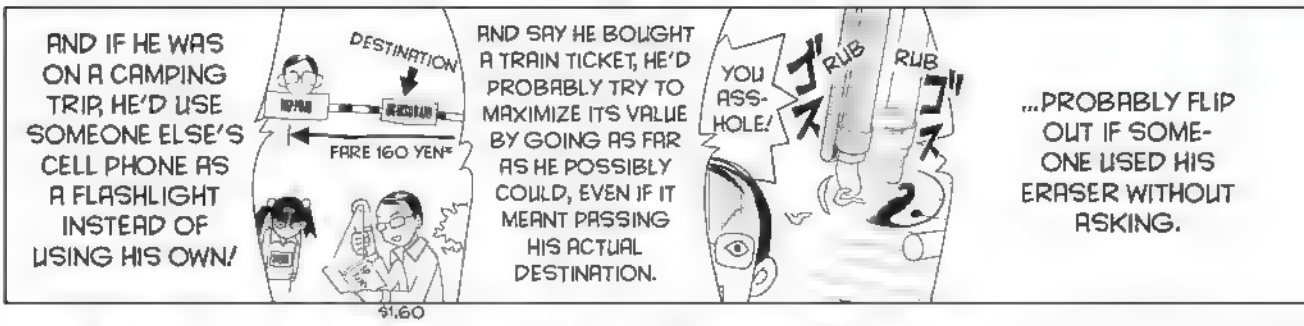


*50 CENTS *$1 *$5

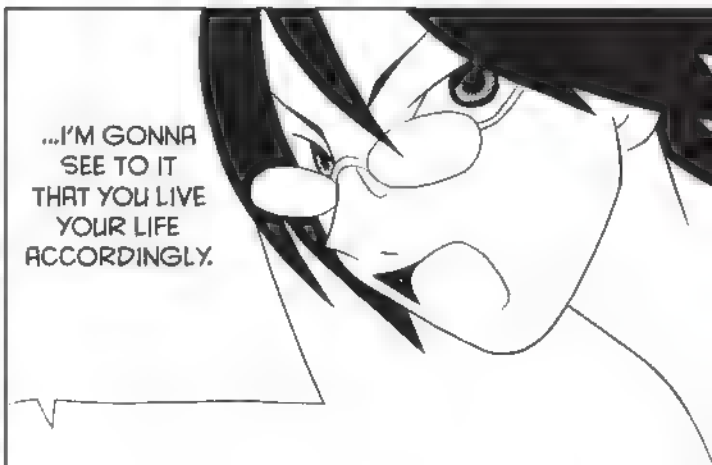
...50 YEN!
YOUR VALUE AS A HUMAN BEING IS EXACTLY...

WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, A PERSON WORTH 50 YEN WOULD...
50 YEN? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

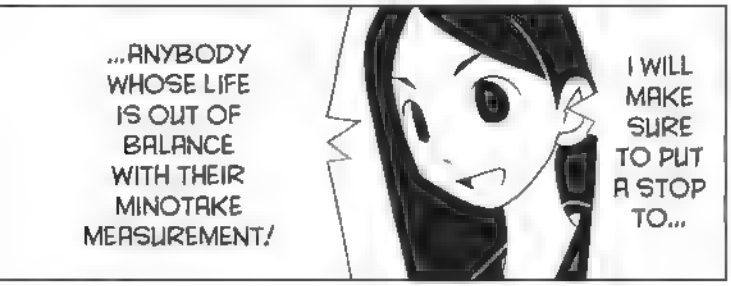


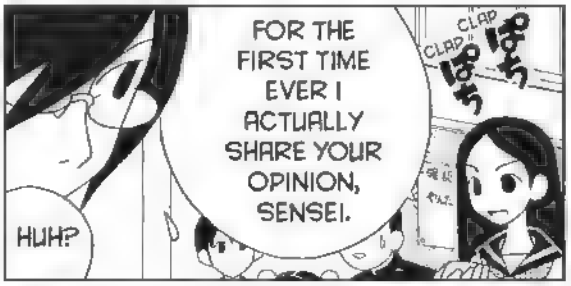

AND IF HE WAS ON A CAMPING TRIP, HE'D USE SOMEONE ELSE'S CELL PHONE AS A FLASHLIGHT INSTEAD OF USING HIS OWN!
DESTINATION
FARE 160 YEN*
$1.60
AND SAY HE BOUGHT A TRAIN TICKET, HE'D PROBABLY TRY TO MAXIMIZE ITS VALUE BY GOING AS FAR AS HE POSSIBLY COULD, EVEN IF IT MEANT PASSING HIS ACTUAL DESTINATION.
YOU ASS-HOLE!
RUB
RUB
...PROBABLY FLIP OUT IF SOMEONE USED HIS ERASER WITHOUT ASKING.

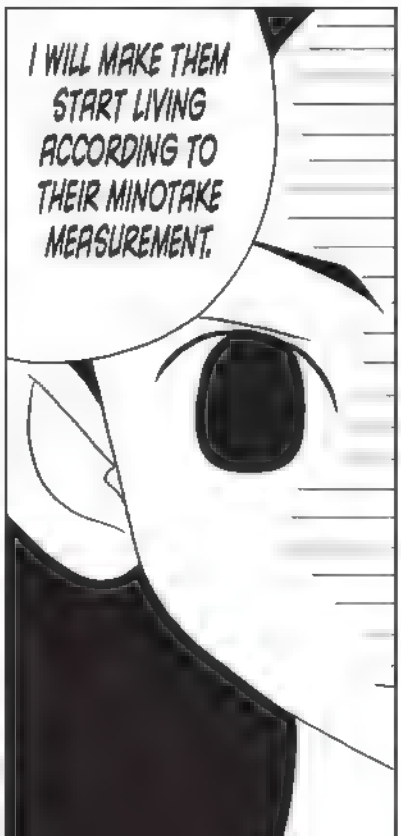
ANYWAY, SINCE YOUR MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT IS 50 YEN...
I'M NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.


...I'M GONNA SEE TO IT THAT YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE ACCORDINGLY.

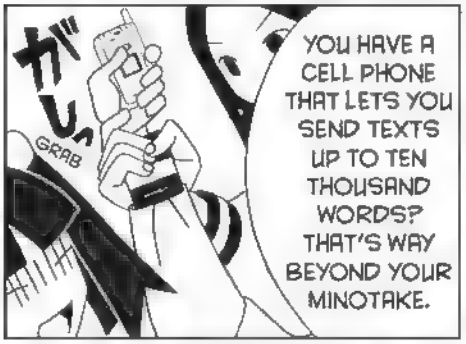
- BUILDING A FREEWAY IN A RURAL TOWN → NOBODY USES IT, AND IT LEADS TO A FINANCIAL CRISIS.
- SEIJI MAEHARA GETS ASSIGNED AS THE HEAD OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN → THE POPULARITY OF THE OPPOS NG LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY INCREASES.
- WHEN A WORTHLESS TECH COMPANY KEEPS ACQUIRING OTHER COMPAN ES.
- PUTTING TOGETHER A SOCCER TEAM SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING IT INTO THE WORLD CUP TOP FOUR → THE END RESULT WAS ONE TIE GAME AND TWO LOSSES.
- COMING UP WITH THE IDEA OF HOSTING THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN SMALL CITIES → ONLY TO HAVE TOKYO GET CHOSEN AS THE OFFICIAL LOCATION AFTER ALL.
- THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WORKER WHO OWNS A FERRARI → BUT LIVES IN A STUDIO APARTMENT.
- SONOMA*MA HIGASHI BECOMES A POLITICIAN → AND GETS A DIVORCE.
- A YOUNG VIRGIN HAS SEX WITH A HOUSEWIFE → AND IS NO LONGER INTERESTED IN GIRLS HIS OWN AGE.







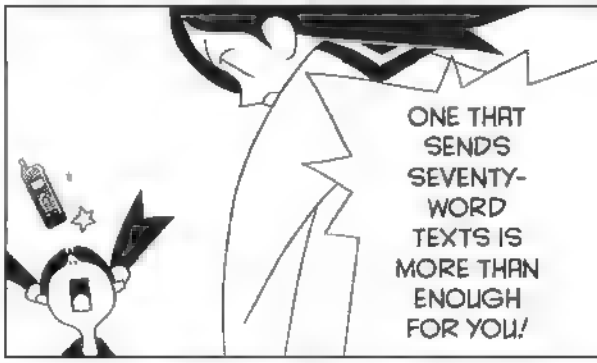
YOU'VE CREATED A DOUJINSHI THAT'S WAY BEYOND YOUR MINOTAKE!
THIS BOOK DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE PRINTED IN HARDCOVER, WITH FULL-COLOR PRINT, A HOLOGRAM, AND A FOLD-OUT POSTER.


がし
GRAB
YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE THAT LETS YOU SEND TEXTS UP TO TEN THOUSAND WORDS? THAT'S WAY BEYOND YOUR MINOTAKE.

じろっ
GLARE

YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST MADE A BLACK-AND-WHITE ZINE.
SHAME ON YOU!

YOU'RE ONLY IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT YOU WALK AROUND WITH A DESIGNER HANDBAG?


ONE THAT SENDS SEVENTY-WORD TEXTS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!

FORGET THAT, ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS A SHOPPING BAG FROM THE DESIGNER OUTLET.

I'M LIVING BEYOND MY MINOTAKE.
I DON'T THINK SO.

MATAROU, YOU'RE LIVING A PRETTY MODEST LIFE, SO I'D SAY YOU'RE IN LINE WITH YOUR MINOTAKE.

I OWN A LIFE-INSURANCE POLICY THAT'S WORTH 100,000,000 YEN.*
THAT'S BEYOND MY MINOTAKE, ISN'T IT?

*$1,000,000

NOT ME OF COURSE.
WHO'S THE BENEFICIARY?

...AND I WILL FORCE IT INTO SUBMISSION.
ANYWAY, I WILL SEEK OUT ANYONE AND ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT IS LIVING BEYOND IT'S MINOTAKE...
WHA-? BUT WHY?
THAT'S OKAY THEN.

...."ONE NEEDS A FULL TATAMI MAT WHEN ASLEEP, BUT ONLY HALF A MAT WHEN AWAKE."
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT... WE MUST LIVE BY THE OLD PROVERB...

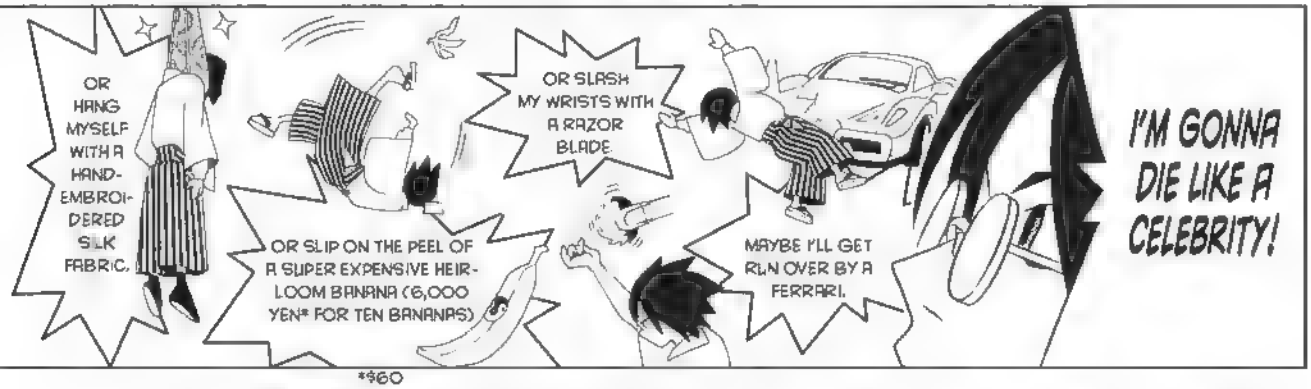
LOOKS LIKE IT OPENS RIGHT HERE.
...I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HAVING JUST ONE MAT WHILE ASLEEP
I UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO ONLY NEED HALF OF A TATAMI WHILE AWAKE, BUT...
STOP TALKING NONSENSE!
WE'RE LIKE THE ULTRA BROTHERS WHEN THEY WERE CAPTURED BY ZETTON.
HERE'S HOW IT'D LOOK IF I WERE TO LAY DOWN AND SLEEP
HYAA!
SLICE
YOUR FEET ARE STICKING OUT OF THE TATAMI.

...TOO SCARY!
LIVING ACCORDING TO YOUR MINOTAKE IS...

I'M GONNA LIVE A LIFE OF LUXURY THAT FAR EXCEEDS MY MINOTAKE.
HUFF ぜ ぜ HUFF
FORGET IT!

DON'T LET YOUR FEET GO OVER THE TATAMI!
KYAA!
いやあああ

...IN LUXURY!
I WILL LIVE AND DIE...

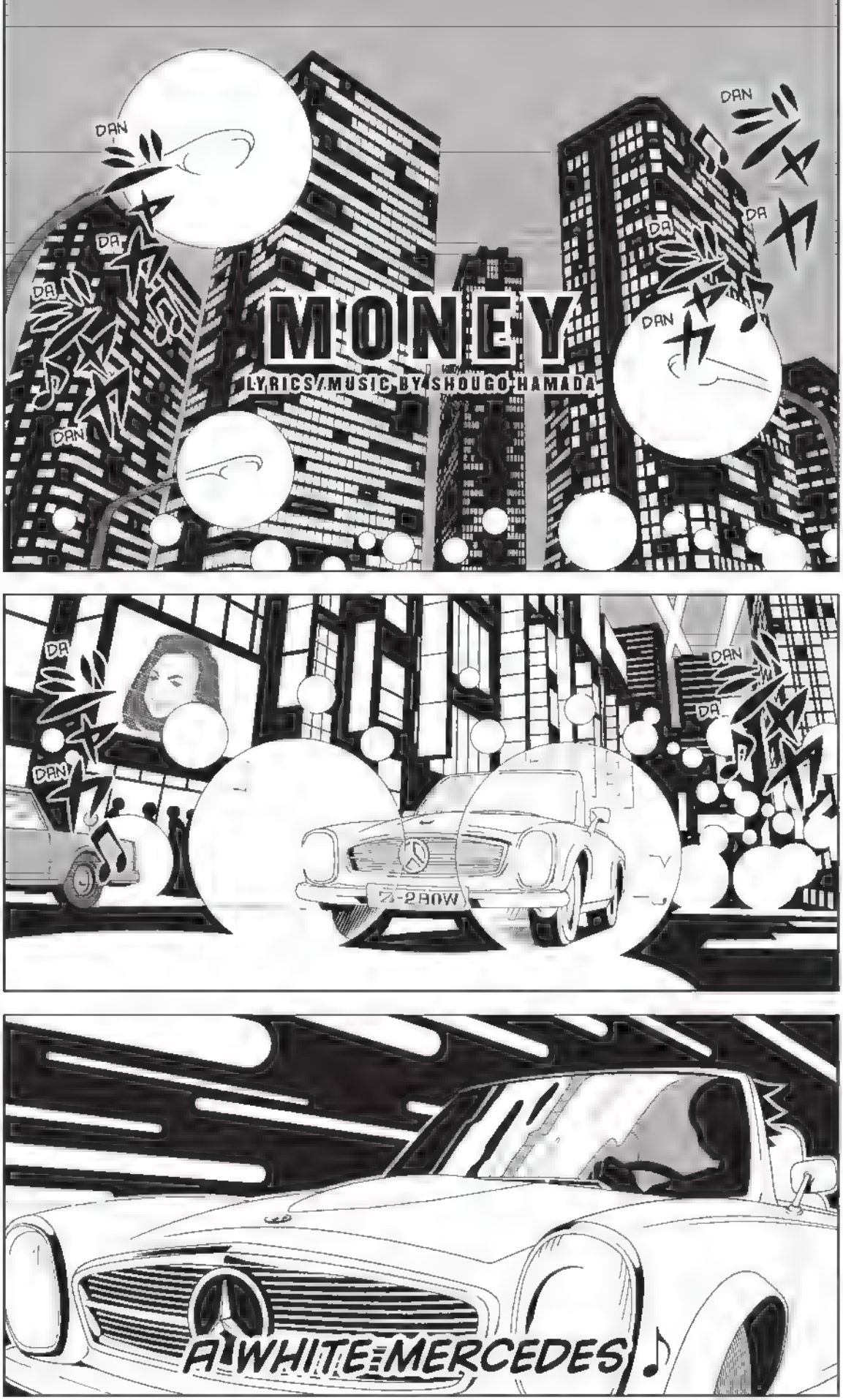

OR HANG MYSELF WITH A HAND-EMBROIDERED SILK FABRIC.
OR SLIP ON THE PEEL OF A SUPER EXPENSIVE HEIRLOOM BANANA (6,000 YEN* FOR TEN BANANAS)
OR SLASH MY WRISTS WITH A RAZOR BLADE
MAYBE I'LL GET RUN OVER BY A FERRARI.
I'M GONNA DIE LIKE A CELEBRITY!

*$60

...HAS GOT TO BE THIS ONE.
THE ULTIMATE CELEBRITY DEATH...

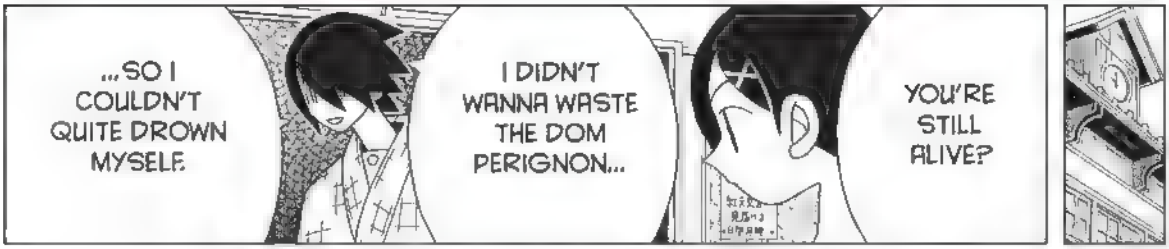
AND THEN I'LL TAKE ON A POSTHUMOUS BUDDHIST NAME THAT FAR EXCEEDS MY MINOTAKE.
絶望院殿
大堕落後悔破滅呪癌馬
大居士

DAN
DA
DA
DAN

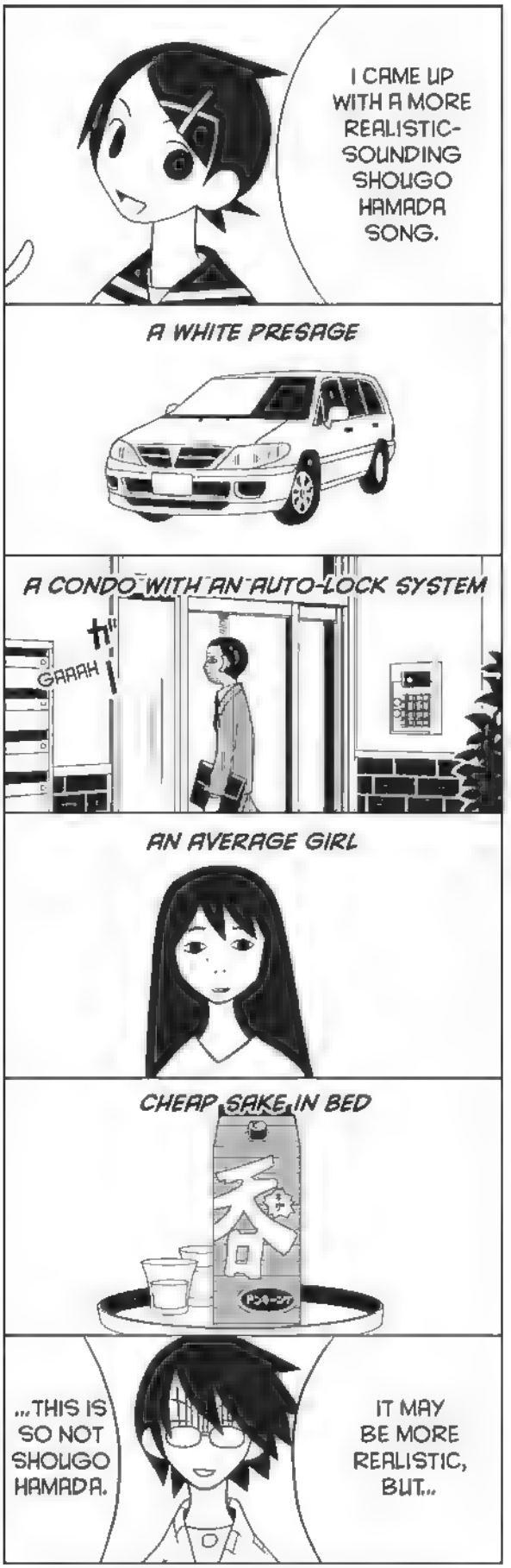

DAN
DA
DAN
DA
DAN
DA
DAN
DA
MONEY
LYRICS/MUSIC BY SHOUGO HAMADA
DA
DAN
DAN
DA
A WHITE MERCEDES ♪

A CONDO WITH A POOL ♪
A GORGEOUS LADY ♪
MOET et CHANDON à Epernay
Champagne
Dom Pérignon
Vintage 1984
750ml
AND DOM PERIGNON IN BED ♪

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
AND THEN YOU DROWN YOURSELF
MOET et CHANDON
Champagne
Dom Pérignon
Vintage 1984


...SO I COULDN'T QUITE DROWN MYSELF
I DIDN'T WANNA WASTE THE DOM PERIGNON...
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?

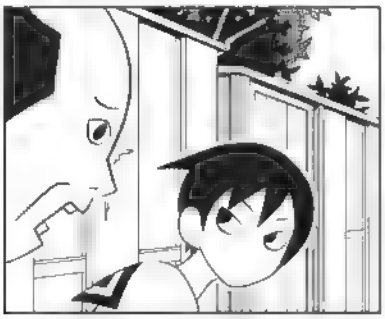
HOW CAN DEATH BE SO EXPEN-SIVE?
AHH...
INVOICE
ITEMS
PRICE
Castle with a pool
A gorgeous woman (Seven Ladies Club
Gold Member 6 hour VIP course)
35,2.000
Extra time charge
Rental car (white Mercedes)
250.000
Dom Perignon (white)
70000
Tuxedo (rental)
227.000
*dressing charge additional
12.390
Bath rental
81.360
Yeehon melon
Render (live)
TOTAL
68,250
2,000


I CAME UP WITH A MORE REALISTIC-SOUNDING SHOUGO HAMADA SONG.
A WHITE PRESAGE
A CONDO WITH AN AUTO-LOCK SYSTEM
GAAAH
AN AVERAGE GIRL
CHEAP SAKE IN BED
...THIS IS SO NOT SHOUGO HAMADA.
IT MAY BE MORE REALISTIC, BUT..

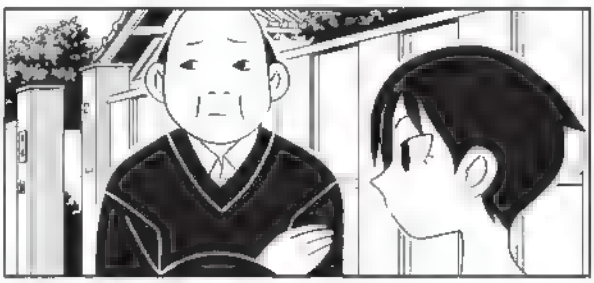
CHAPTER 46

...BECAUSE I HAVE A NATURALLY MEAN-LOOKING FACE.
I'VE BEEN MISUNDER-STOOD MY WHOLE LIFE...
STARE
じー
AH.
THAT GIRL'S IN MY CLASS...
ピンポン
DING-DONG

FWOOSH
AH.
IT'S THE OL' DING AND DITCH.
IT'S YOU!
SO, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS PLAYING TRICKS ON US!
YANK



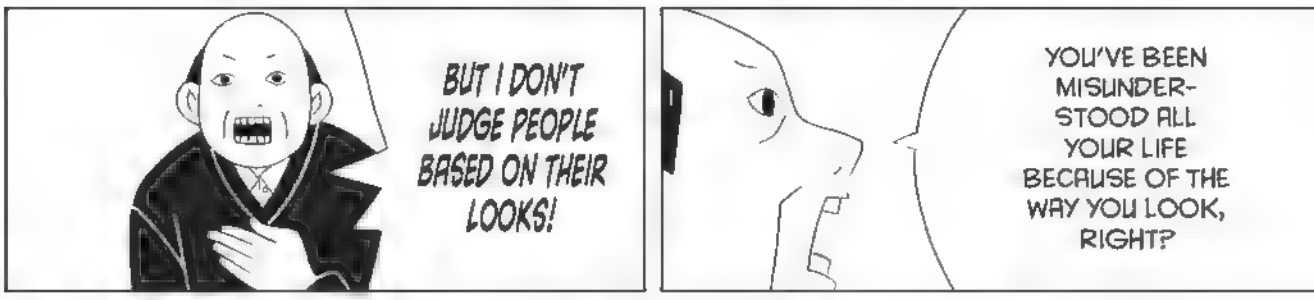
ふっ
HEH
I KNOW...



YOU DIDN'T DO IT, RIGHT?
WHA-?

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING MEAN... THAT'D BE WAY TOO OBVIOUS.
LOOK AT YOU, YOU'VE GOT SUCH A MEAN-LOOKING FACE...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN.
I GET IT.
WHAT!?


BUT I DON'T JUDGE PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR LOOKS!
YOU'VE BEEN MISUNDER-STOOD ALL YOUR LIFE BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU LOOK, RIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
WH—

IF IT WASN'T HER, THEN IT MUST'VE BEEN YOU!
WH-WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR?
IT WAS YOU!

PEOPLE TEND TO THINK THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD POSSIBLY BE TRUE!

WHEN THINGS SEEM TOO OBVIOUS
(WHEN THERE'S AN EXCESS OF EVIDENCE)...

...NOBODY SUSPECTS THAT HE ACTUALLY IS A THIEF.

WHEN SOMEBODY LOOKS LIKE A TYPICAL THIEF...

HE'S DRESSED WAY TOO CONSPICUOUSLY TO BE A REAL THIEF.

...PEOPLE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S ACTUALLY HIS REAL HAIR!

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A GUY IS WEARING A TOUPEE THAT LOOKS REALLY OBVIOUS...

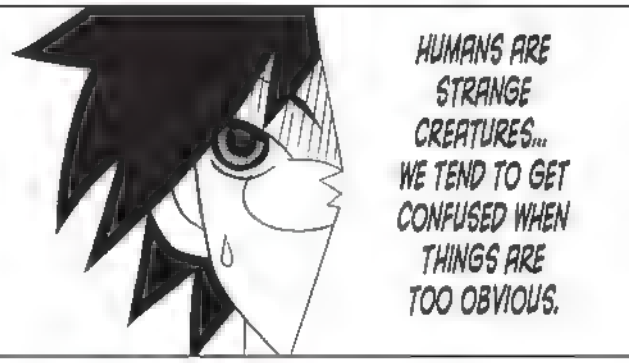
NOBODY WOULD WEAR A TOUPEE THAT OBVIOUS.

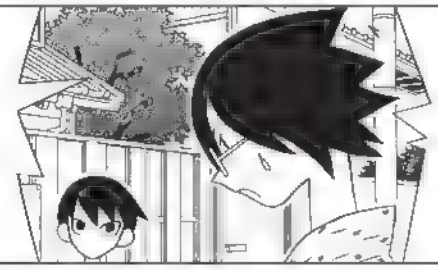
WHEN PEOPLE HEAR A RIDDLE LIKE "WHAT KIND OF FOOD DOES A FATHER HATE?"
THEY TEND TO THINK "PAPAYA"* IS TOO OBVIOUS TO BE THE ACTUAL ANSWER.
LET'S SEE...
TRAIN YOUR BRAIN ON PUZZLES

WHEN SOMEBODY TELLS YOU AN OBVIOUS LIE ON APRIL FOOL'S DAY...
I HEARD HOTEI IS GONNA PLAY DUKE IN THE MOVIE VERSION OF DEATH NOTE.
APRIL 1ST
NO WAY.
...PEOPLE TEND TO THINK IT'S THE TRUTH.

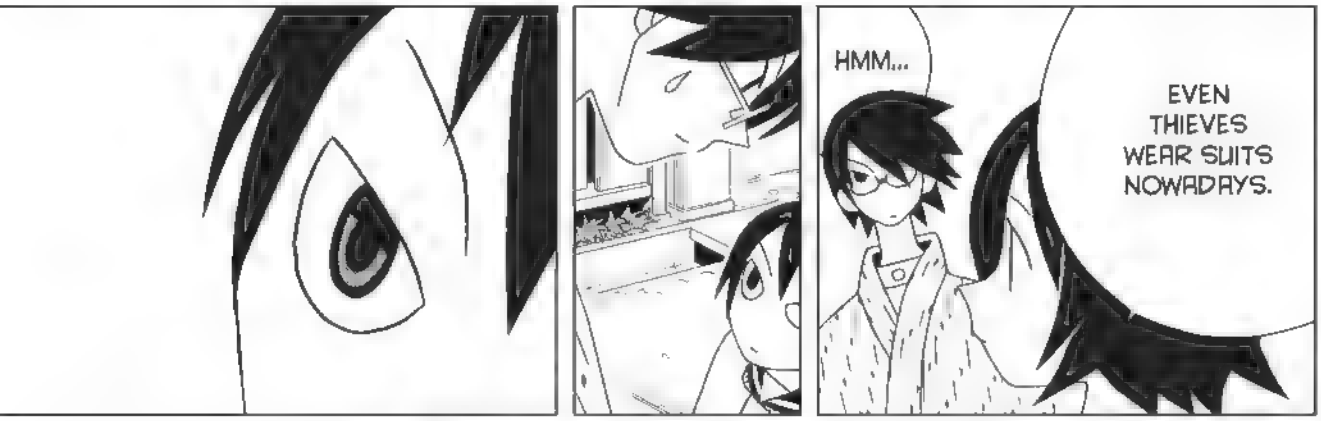
* THE WORD 'IYA' IN JAPANESE MEANS TO 'DISLIKE'. SO, PAPAYA SOUNDS LIKE PAPA IYA ('PAPA DOESN'T LIKE IT'.)

- WHEN YOU SEE A GIRL'S NIPPLES POINTING THROUGH THEIR SHIRT, YOU THINK THEY'VE GOTTA BE STICK-ON NIPPLES.
- WHEN YOU FIND A LOVE LETTER IN YOUR SHOE BOX, YOU THINK IT'S JUST A PRANK.
- WHEN YOU HEAR A BAND WITH A SUPER CHEESY NAME, YOU THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO BE IRONIC.
- WHEN YOU SEE A PHOTO OF AN IDOL SMOKING, YOU THINK IT MUST HAVE BEEN DOCTORED.
- WHEN AN ENDING SEEMS TOO OBVIOUS, YOU KEEP WAITING FOR THE SURPRISE THAT TURNS EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN.
- WHEN YOU SEE A PERVERT ATTACKING A WOMAN ON A TRAIN, YOU THINK MAYBE IT'S JUST A COUPLE WHO'RE ROLE-PLAYING.





B-BUT...
BAD KIDS DON'T NECESSARILY LOOK LIKE BAD KIDS THESE DAYS, YOU KNOW? THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
YOU'RE A TEACHER... YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO JUDGE PEOPLE BASED ON HOW THEY LOOK.


HMM...
EVEN THIEVES WEAR SUITS NOWADAYS.

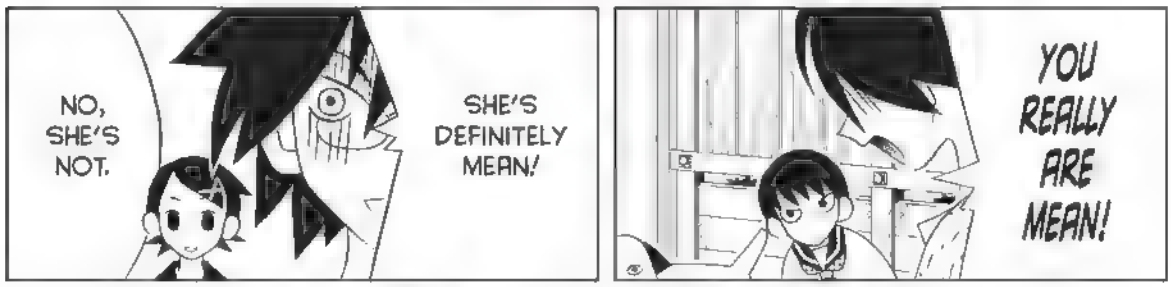
SHE'S PROBABLY NOT AS MEAN AS SHE LOOKS.
WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHOA, SHE REALLY DOES LOOK MEAN.

THE MARTIAL ARTIST WHO SCREAMS OUT "H-YA!"
THE DETECTIVE WITH A MAGNIFYING GLASS GLUED TO HIS PALM.
THE EDUCATION-OBSESSED MOTHER WITH A CONDESCENDING TONE.
THE DRUNK WHO CARRIES AROUND A SUSHI BOX.
THE MANGA ARTIST WHO ALWAYS WEARS A BERET.
NOWADAYS YOU REALLY DON'T SEE PEOPLE WHO FIT THE OLD STEREOTYPES.

LOOK AT HER PLAYING WITH THAT PUPPY. SHE'S A SWEETHEART.

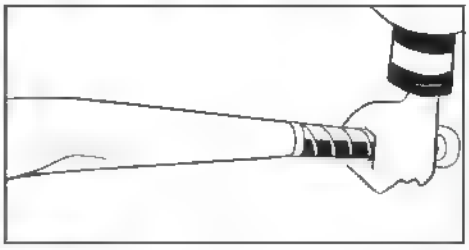
...MY EYES MUST HAVE BEEN PLAYING TRICKS ON ME.
I GUESS...

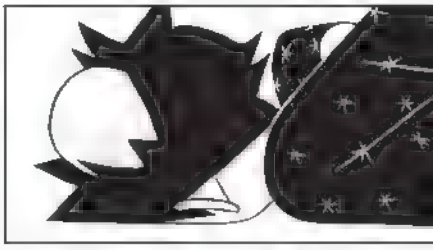
SHE'S MEAN!

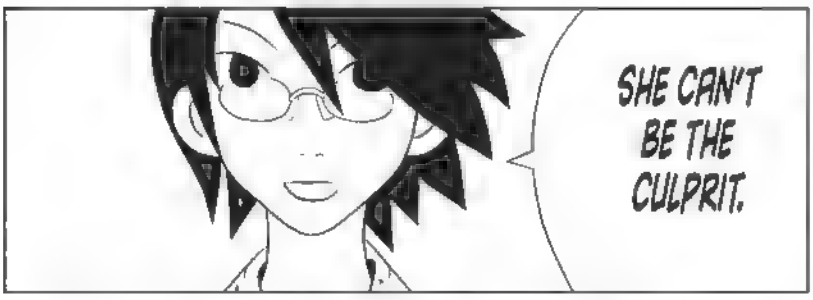

NO, SHE'S NOT.
SHE'S DEFINITELY MEAN!
YOU REALLY ARE MEAN!

WELL, SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO PULL THE STICK OUT OF THE DOG.
YOU KNOW THAT OLD PROVERB "THE DOG THAT WANDERS EVENTUALLY RUNS INTO THE STICK," RIGHT?

...CAN'T POSSIBLY BE MEAN.
A MEAN-LOOKING GIRL LIKE HER...
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MANY STICKS DOGS RUN INTO.
I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT PROVERB BEFORE.
YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
LIFE JUST ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS THESE DAYS, RIGHT, KUDO-KUN?
WHO'S THE REAL CULPRIT.
SUSPECT A IS KNOWN TO HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST VICTIM B. A BLOODY KNIFE IS PULLED FROM SUSPECT A'S BAG.
A MURDER TAKES PLACE INSIDE A REMOTE PENSION IN THE WOODS.
SEE?
THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE!
IT CAN'T BE SUSPECT A!
BONK
AH... WHERE'S SHE GOING?
WHOOSH
THAT'S RIGHT.
A MEAN-LOOKING GIRL LIKE HER COULDN'T POSSIBLE DO ANYTHING MEAN!






SHE CAN'T BE THE CULPRIT.

むくっ
FWIP

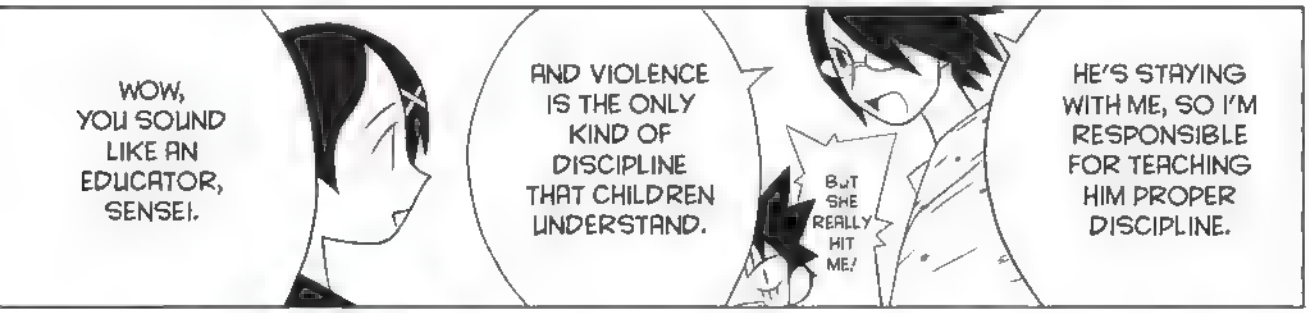
AHH... ううっ

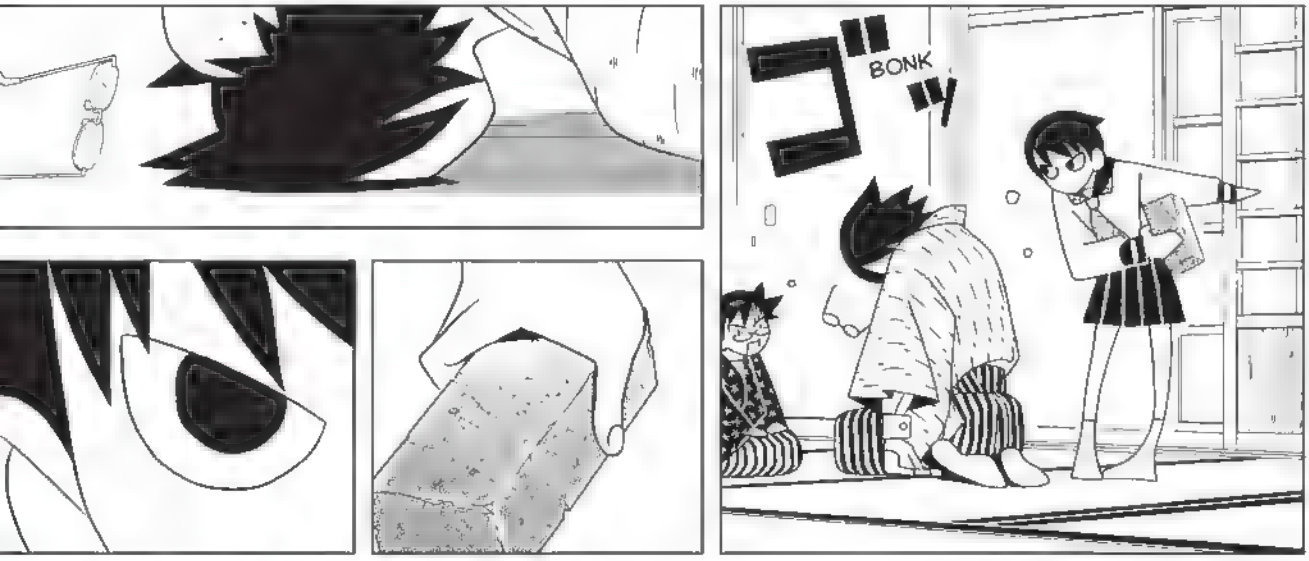
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE!

ギロ
GLARE

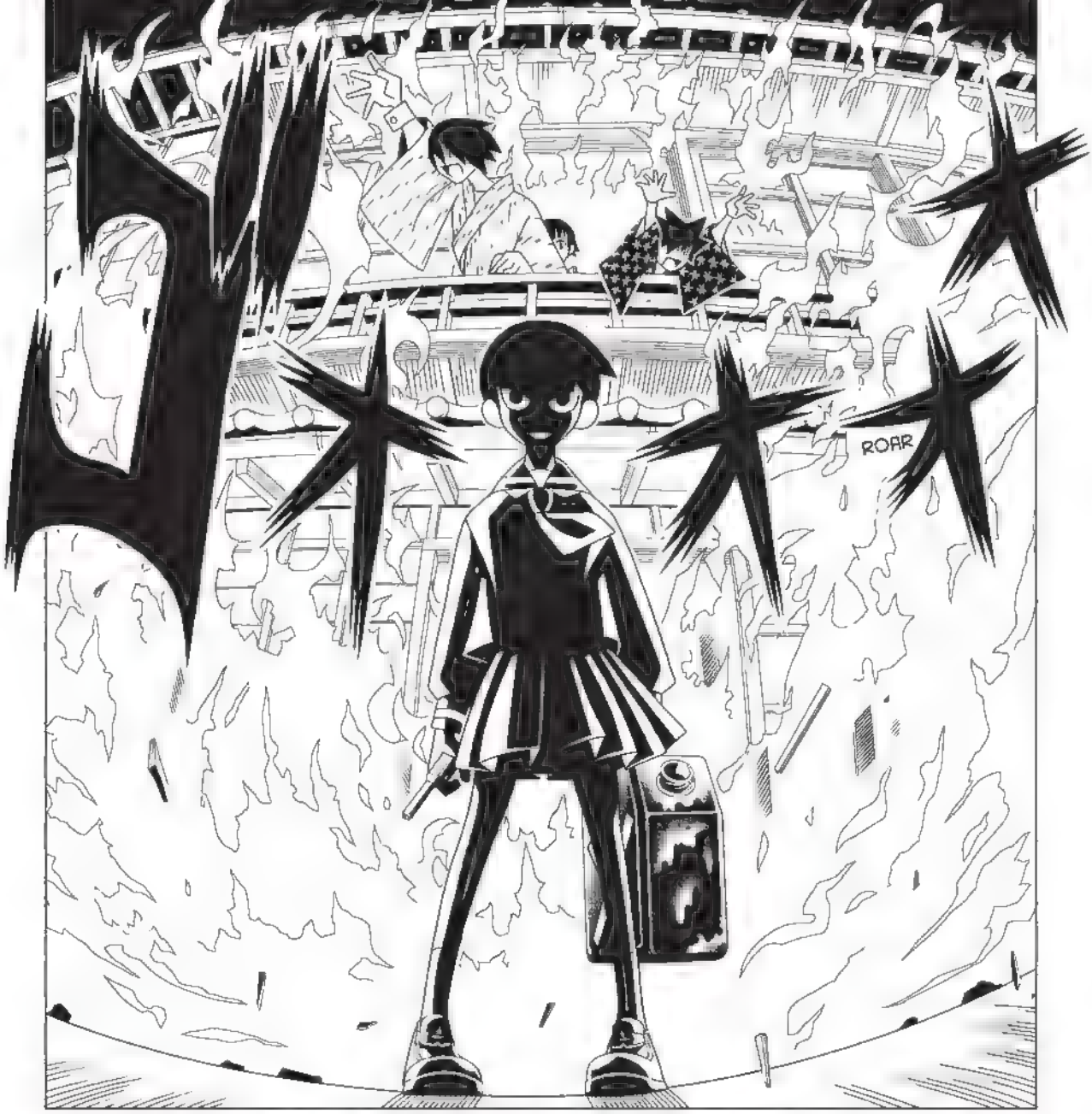
...SHE HIT ME!
SHE...

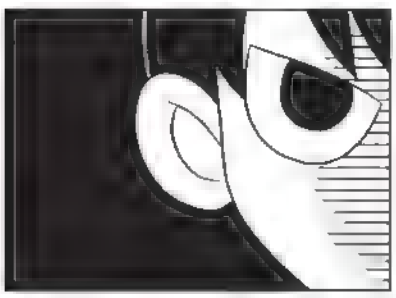
...BY HOW THEY LOOK!
YOU CAN'T JUDGE PEOPLE...
SLAP
ぱん

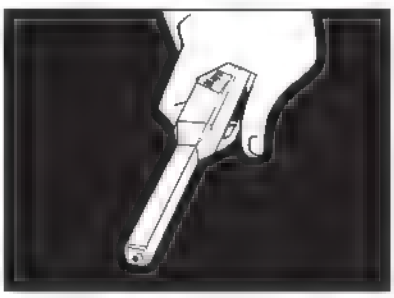

WOW, YOU SOUND LIKE AN EDUCATOR, SENSEI.
AND VIOLENCE IS THE ONLY KIND OF DISCIPLINE THAT CHILDREN UNDERSTAND.
BUT SHE REALLY HIT ME!
HE'S STAYING WITH ME, SO I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING HIM PROPER DISCIPLINE.

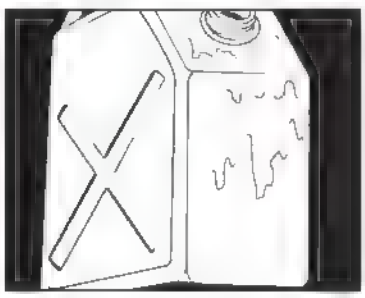

BONK
ゴッ

BONK
AAAHH
BONK
BONK
...COULDN'T POSSIBLY DO ANYTHING MEAN!
THIS MEAN-LOOKING GIRL...
THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE.
SHE CAN'T BE THE CULPRIT.
FWUP
むん


ROAR







...I ALWAYS WANNA DO MEAN THINGS TO THEM.
WHEN I LIKE SOME-ONE...

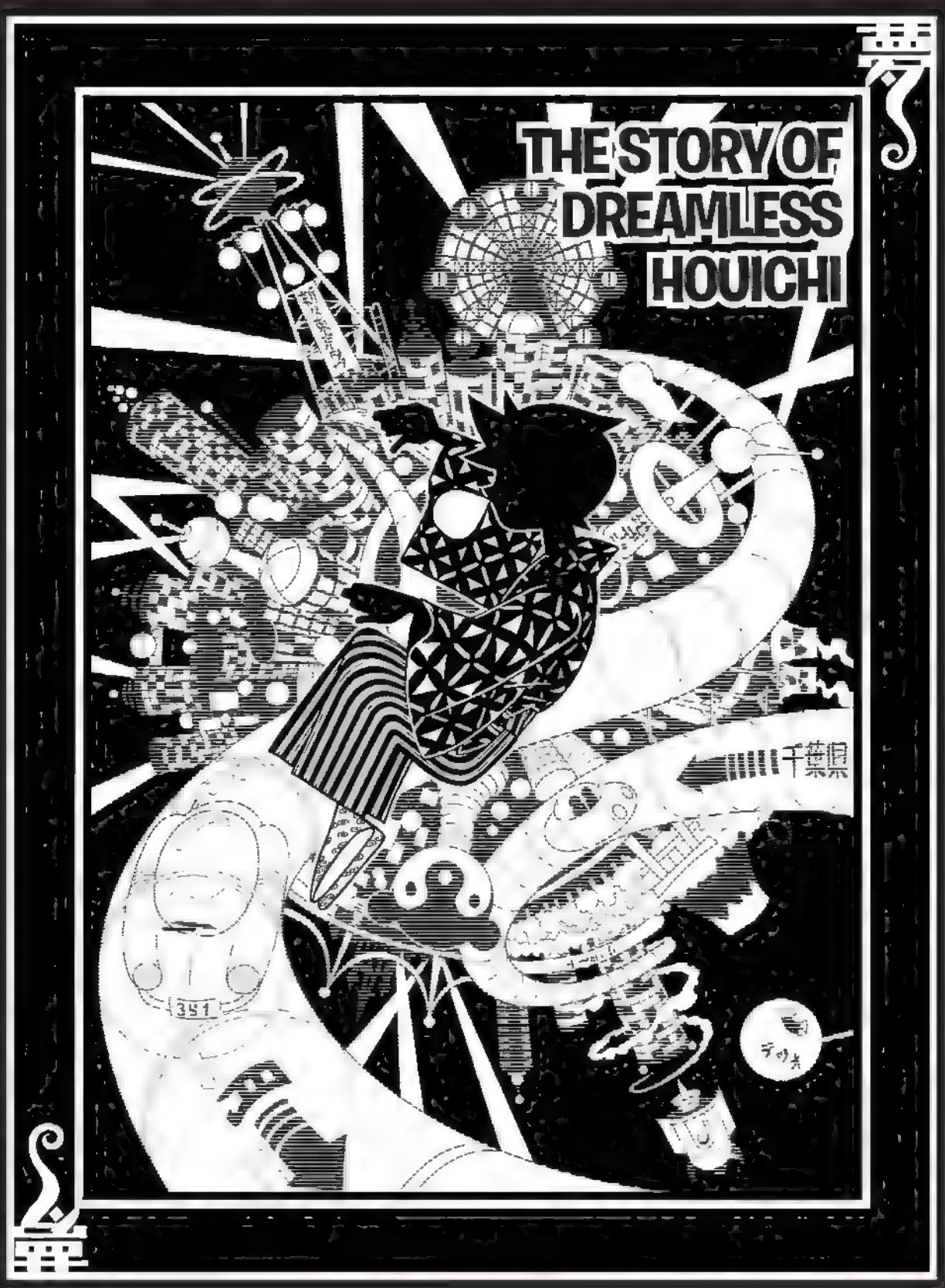
THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE!
SHE CAN'T BE THE CULPRIT!

ATTENDANCE LIST
CLASS 2-HE

ATTENDANCE NO. 30

MAYO MITAMA

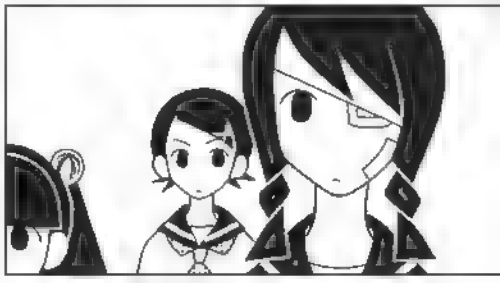
MEAN-LOOKING GIRL

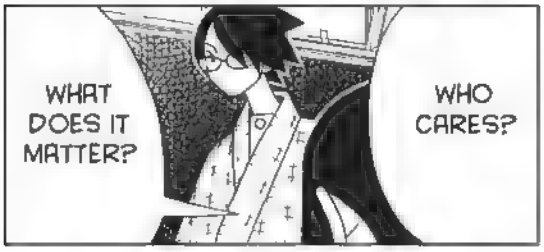


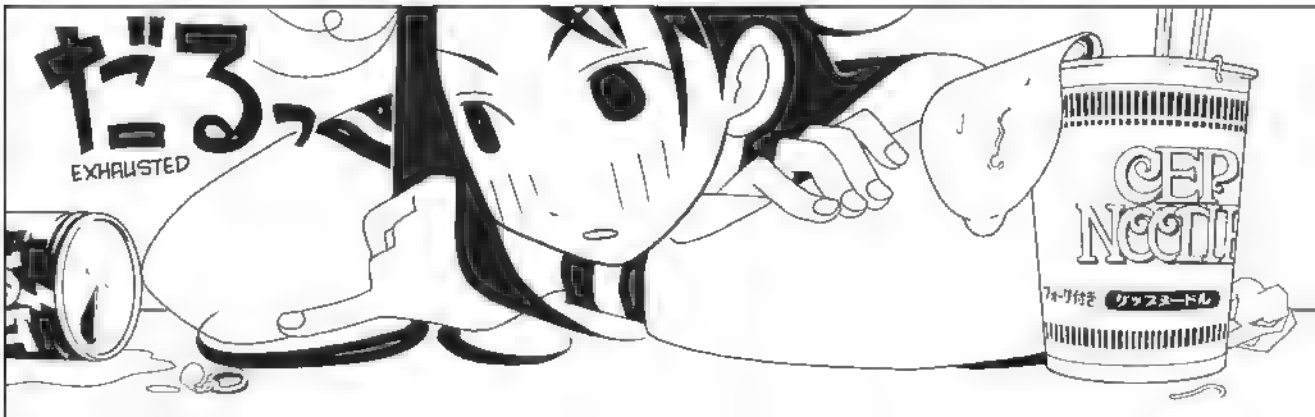
CHAPTER 47

SIZZLE
NIGHT DUTY ROOM
PLEASANT SPRING NIGHTS MAKE IT HARD TO GREET THE MORNING.
UH...
ZZZ

*DREAM ENDING: WHEN A MANGA STORY ENDS WITH THE MAIN CHARACTER WAKING UP FROM A DREAM.







...CAN'T BELIEVE HOW LAZY KITSU-SAN IS!
I-I...

THIS WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE!
THIS REALLY IS A DREAM.
TO HELL WITH LIFE.
YOU'RE LIKE THE MOST ORGANIZED PERSON EVER!

...ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN!
ANYWAY, TODAY'S TOPIC IS THE *DREAM ENDING*, SO...

...BECAUSE THIS IS JUST A DREAM.
...BUT EVERY-THING'S GONNA BE OKAY...

...OR THERE MIGHT BE A SEXUAL SCENE THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR A *SHÔNEN MAGAZINE*...
SOMEBODY MIGHT DIE...
...OR WE MIGHT SEE PEOPLE BEHAVE TOTALLY OUT OF CHARACTER...

SORRY I'M LATE.

VROOON
ドドド

YOU'RE GONNA CONFUSE EVERY-BODY WHO JUST STARTED READING THIS MANGA, YOU BALD FOOL!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU DREAMING? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN ESTABLISHED YOUR CHARACTERS YET.
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
OTONASHI-SAN IS ACTUALLY TALKING!
HERE YOU GO
SUCH HARSH WORDS.
HEY, FOUR EYES! NOBODY'S INTERESTED IN YOUR DREAMS, YOU IDIOT!
KOMORI-SAN IS ACTUALLY PLAYING OUTSIDE!
IT'S SPRING-TIME... LA, LA, LA. ♪♪
ぽ
BONK

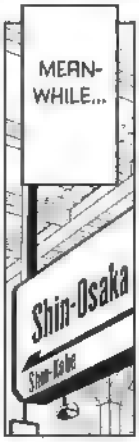
THREE LITTLE BIRDS ATTACKED THE CAT.
♪
AND THREE PEOPLE BURIED THE VILLAGE CHIEF.
♪

HITOU-SAN...
...ISN'T ACTING ORDINARY!

I REALLY AM ORDINARY!
BUT I'M ORDINARY!

はっ AH
SHE'S NOT ORDINARY!

I WONDER WHAT SENSEI'S DOING.
MATOI-CHAN IS IN A LONG-DISTANCE RELATION-SHIP.


MEAN-WHILE...
Shin-Osaka
Shin-Kobe

...YOU'RE ALL ACTING TOO CRAZY!
EVEN FOR A DREAM...

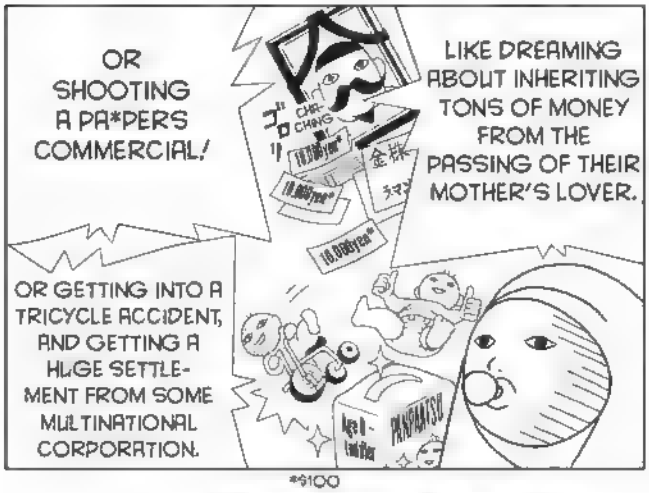
I'M ORDINARY!

SENSEI, I WROTE A STORY.
Field of Dreams
...WHY DON'T WE TELL A STORY FILLED WITH HOPEFUL DREAMS?
ANYWAY, SINCE THIS IS A DREAM...
I'M SURE YOUR STORY WILL BE FILLED WITH HOPEFUL DREAMS.
OH, YOU'RE A GENIUS STORY-TELLER, KUDO-KUN...
A GUY INJURES BOTH OF HIS HANDS, AND HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW COMES OVER TO TAKE CARE OF HIM?
I CAN'T BELIEVE KUDO-KUN TOLD SUCH A PERVERTED STORY!
...A STORY FILLED WITH HOPEFUL DREAMS?
WHAT EXACTLY IS...
WELL, I GUESS IN A WAY IT'S KIND OF A HOPEFUL STORY, BUT...
LET'S SEE...WELL, HERE IS A STORY THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO ME.
I WON 3,000 YEN*...
*$30

KOTO コト
コト6
2323回
抽せん日
78 36
...PLAYING LOTTO SIX.

HUH?
I WONDER IF BABIES DREAM.

WHAT? BUT I WON! HOW IS IT HOPE-LESS?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN A DREAM... WHY ARE YOU WASTING OUR TIME WITH A HOPELESS STORY LIKE THAT?


OR SHOOTING A PA*PERS COMMERCIAL!
LIKE DREAMING ABOUT INHERITING TONS OF MONEY FROM THE PASSING OF THEIR MOTHER'S LOVER.
OR GETTING INTO A TRICYCLE ACCIDENT, AND GETTING A HUGE SETTLE-MENT FROM SOME MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION.
CHA-CHING
金様
10.0Billyen*
PANPAKAPU

THEY HAVE REALLY UNPURE DREAMS!
SURE THEY DO!

*¥100

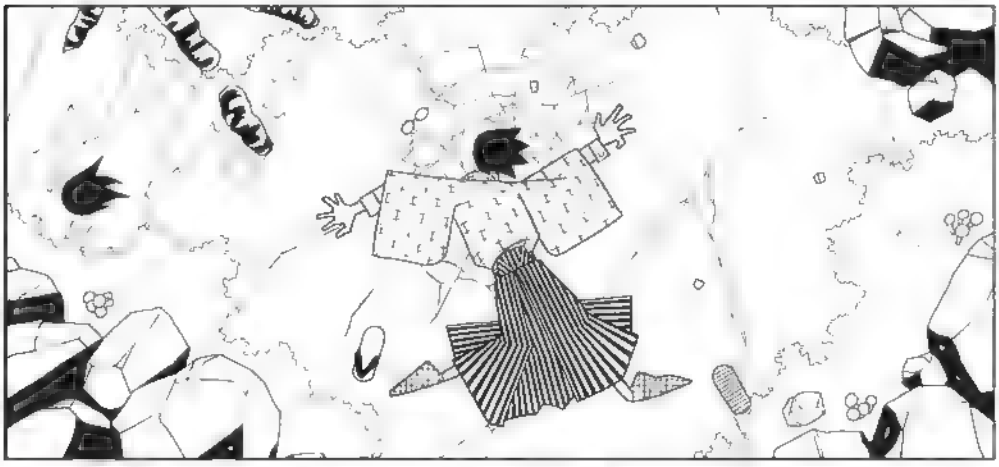
BOY YOU'RE REALLY NEGATIVE WHEN YOU'RE IN A DREAM, AREN'T YOU?
YOU STOLE MY LINE...
EVEN IN THIS DREAM I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN THE WORLD!
IT'S HOPELESS!

THAT MEANS...

...EXISTS ONLY IN YOUR DREAM, RIGHT, SENSEI?
SO THIS WORLD WE'RE EXPERIENCING NOW...

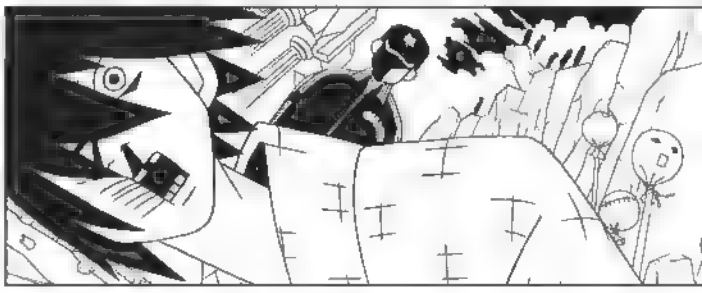
LET'S KILL HIM!
WHISPER WHISPER
SHOULD WE KILL HIM?
CHATTER
WE'RE ALL GONNA DISAPPEAR WHEN YOU WAKE UP.
TH-THIS GIRL IS DEFINITELY NOT ORDINARY!
HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH.
SMACK
HYA!
YOU'RE GONNA SLEEP FOREVER.
WE MUST OFFER OUR TEACHER'S LIVER AS A SACRIFICE!
IN ORDER TO AWAKEN OUR ONE AND ONLY GOD, MEGANEGA-SAMA...
WAAAHH
SLEEP FOREVER! SLEEP FOREVER!
MAKE HIM SLEEP FOR-EVER!
AH.
THIS REALLY IS A DREAM!
THIS STORY IS FALLING APART!
...RIGHT WHEN I'M ABOUT TO HIT THE GROUND!
OH I GET IT, I'M GONNA WAKE UP...
WAAAHHH

WHERE IS THE DREAM ENDING?



CRASH

MY DREAM ISN'T OVER YET.



WHAT I THINK OF AS REALITY COULD JUST BE PART OF HARA'S DREAM!
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING TO ME.

...WHAT WE PERCEIVE AS REALITY COULD JUST BE A BUTTERFLY'S DREAM.
THE CHINESE PHILOS-OPHER SOUSHI ONCE SAID...

AH.

MY DREAM ISN'T OVER YET.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR DREAM!
HARA
00

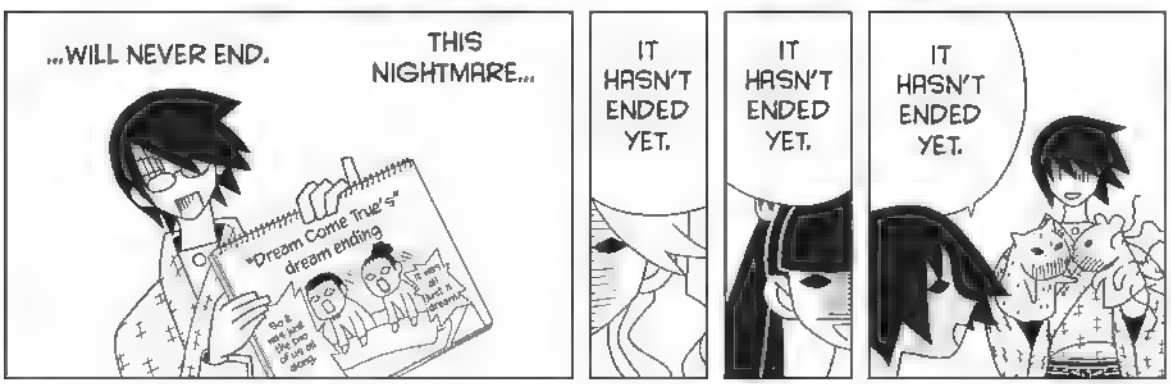
I NEED MY DREAM ENDING RIGHT NOW!
THAT'S RIGHT, WHERE'S THE DREAM ENDING?
WHAT AM I SAYING? THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
THE ENDING... THE ENDING...
THE ENDING...
!!
YOU'RE DRUNK.
SHUT UP.
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE CARE OF ME, RIGHT?
NO WAY!
HA! HA! HA...
THERE IS NO ENDING!
...AN ENDING IS AN ENDING.
IT MAY BE JUST A DREAM ENDING, BUT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE DREAM ENDING THING A LITTLE MORE SERIOUSLY, SENSEI.
HYA!

AND YOU CAN'T WAKE UP...
...WITHOUT AN ENDING.

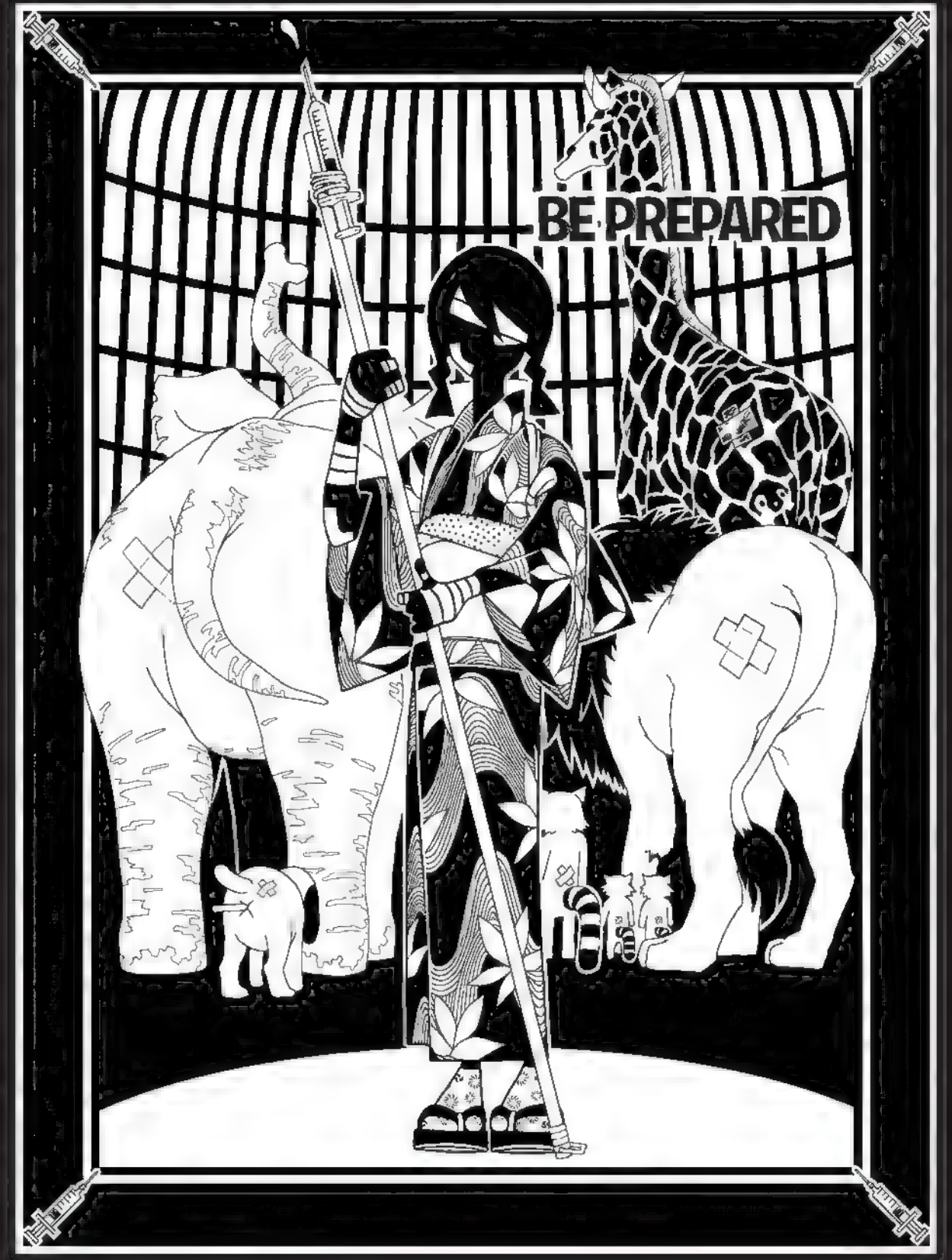
NO WONDER GOD CAME OUT AGAINST IT!
THIS DREAM ENDING IS TOO FRIGGIN' SCARY!

きゃあああ
GYAAA

THINK OF AN ENDING!
IF YOU WANNA WAKE UP, THINK OF AN ENDING!
THINK OF AN ENDING!


...WILL NEVER END.
THIS NIGHTMARE...
"Dream Come True's" dream ending
IT HASN'T ENDED YET.
IT HASN'T ENDED YET.
IT HASN'T ENDED YET.

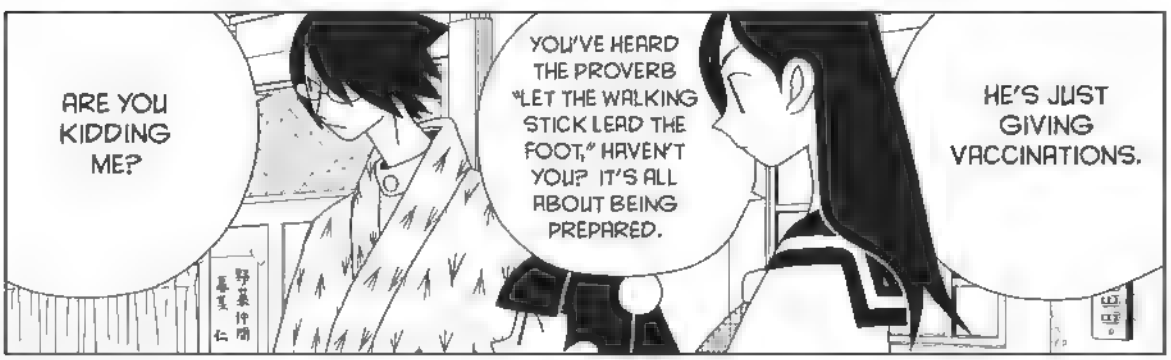
YOU MEAN I NEED A DOUBLE DREAM ENDING?
THIS IS ACTUALLY A DREAM WITHIN A DREAM.
SENSEI, I'VE GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU.



CHAPTER 48

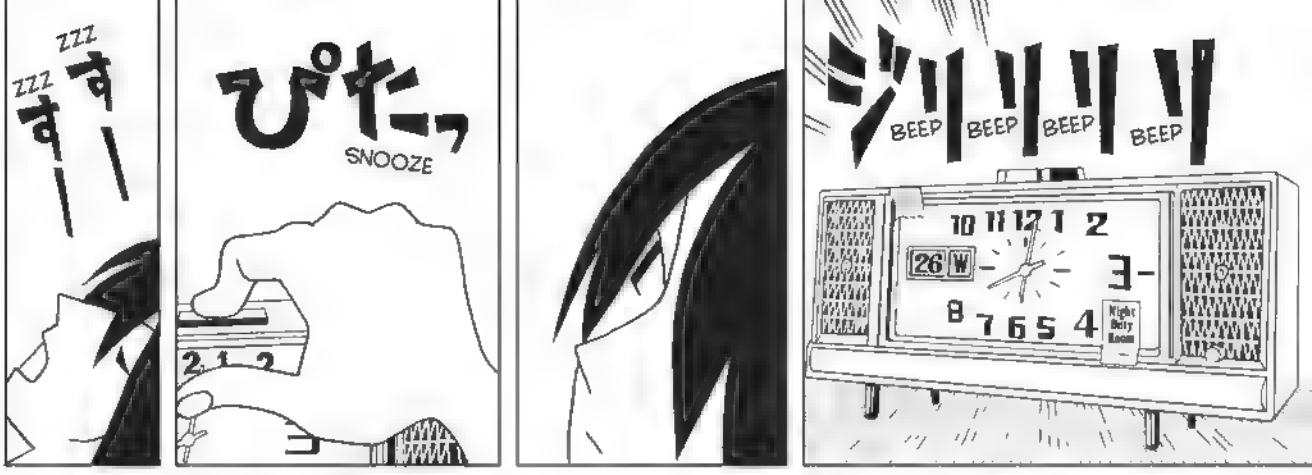
DRIP
ちゅ

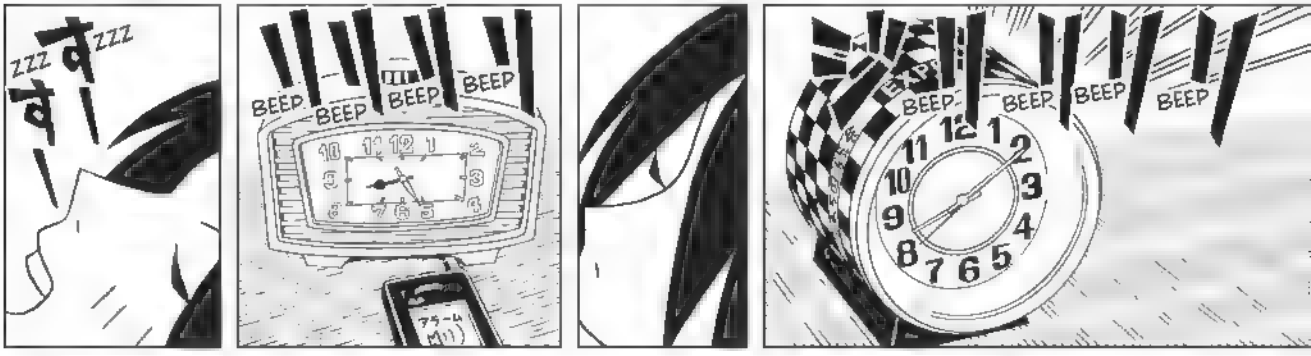
HOW DARE YOU DISGRACE OUR ANCESTORS LIKE THIS.
ガラッ
SLIDE
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, MIKOTO?

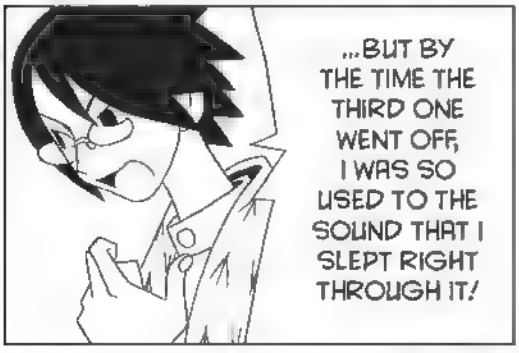

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
YOU'VE HEARD THE PROVERB "LET THE WALKING STICK LEAD THE FOOT," HAVEN'T YOU? IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING PREPARED.
HE'S JUST GIVING VACCINATIONS.

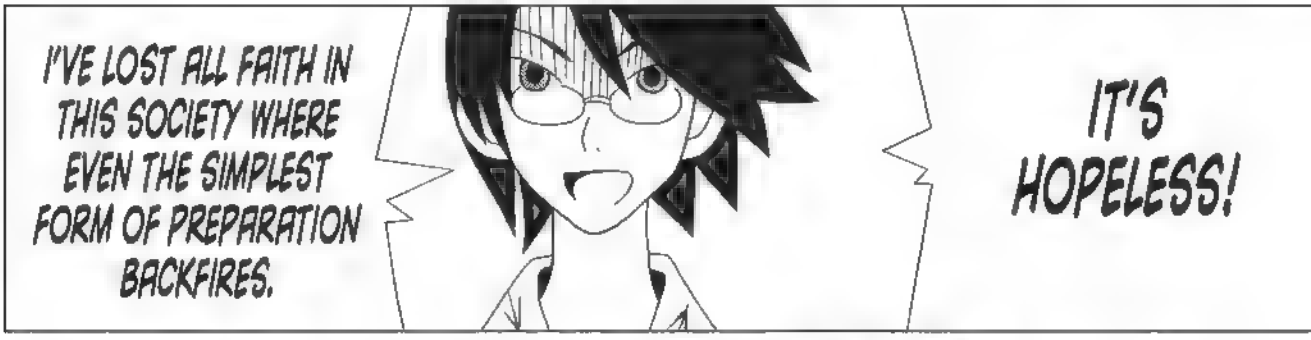
I PREFER THE PROVERB "CAREFUL WITH YOUR WALKING STICK LEST IT STAB YOU THROUGH THE HEART."
... FOR GENERA-TIONS!
THAT'S BEEN OUR FAMILY MOTTO...
THE GREAT WALKING-STICK TRAGEDY.
ONE OF OUR ANCESTORS DIED WHEN HE WAS STABBED BY HIS OWN WALKING STICK.
WHEN YOU PREPARE, IT ONLY BACK-FIRES!
THERE'S NO SENSE IN TRYING TO BE PRE-PARED...

...AND GETTING TRAPPED IN YOUR HOUSE WHILE YOU'RE TRYING TO FIND IT.
OR PREPARING A SPECIAL EMERGENCY KIT...
...AND THE SMELL OF THE BAG ENDS UP MAKING YOU PUKE.
BLEAH
LIKE WHEN YOU BRING A PLASTIC BAG ON THE BUS, IN CASE YOU GET SICK...
...AND ENDING UP WITH A ROOM THAT STINKS OF FAB*EEZ!
PSSCHH!
OR SPRAYING FAB*EEZ TO GET RID OF A STENCH...
...AND THEN FORGET-TING IT.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
INVALID PIN!
OR CHOOSING A COMPLI-CATED PIN NUMBER TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT...
AND THIS MORNING, I WAS AN HOUR LATE, ALL BECAUSE I TRIED TO BE PREPARED.
ZZZ
SNOOZE
BEEP BEEP BEEP









- YOU GET SPOOKED BY LOOKING IN YOUR REARVIEW MIRROR AND END UP CAUSING AN ACCIDENT.
- YOU SET UP SONAR ON A SHIP TO REPEL WHALES, BUT IT ENDS UP DRAWING THE WHALES TO YOU AND CAUSING A COLLISION.
- YOU BUCKLE YOUR CHILDREN INTO THE CHILD SEAT SO TIGHT THAT THEY SUFFOCATE.
- AN ELEVATOR COMPLETELY GOES INTO EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF MODE AFTER A SMALL QUAKE, AND EVERYBODY IN IT ENDS UP TRAPPED INSIDE FOR FIVE HOURS.
- THE BRIGHT YELLOW SAFETY PAINT THEY USE AT BUS STOPS GETS DANGEROUSLY SLIPPERY WHEN IT RAINS.
- YOU FOLLOW THE SAME EXERCISE PLAN EVERY SINGLE DAY, ONLY TO GET REPETITIVE STRESS DISORDER.
- YOU GET A LIFE-INSURANCE POLICY, AND SOMEONE KILLS YOU TO COLLECT ON IT.

Love 2000
Passport
Cash Card
Passbook Bank Card

LOOK HOW PREPARED HE IS.

EWW, I DON'T EVEN WANNA HEAR YOU SAY THE WORD "PREGNANT"... IT'S SO GROSS!
I'M JUST MAKING SURE I DON'T GET ANY-ONE PREGNANT. THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S TOTALLY GROSS.
GROSS.

...FOR SOME REASON IT SEEMS WRONG.
USUI-KUN WASN'T REALLY DOING ANYTHING WRONG, BUT...

SEE WHAT I'M SAYING?
MY PREPA-RATION HAS BACK-FIRED!

THAT'S WHY I DO EVERY-THING FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

I BELIEVE IN THE OLD SAYING "PROPER PREPARATION MEANS NO REGRETS." PREPARATION IS KEY.
WELL, I THINK USUI-KUN IS AN EXCEPTION.

CHECK OUT THE TV SCHEDULE IN THE NEWS PAPER.
PLAY WITH A DOG ON YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL
HEAR YOUR HORO-SCOPE ON A MORNING TALK SHOW
7:58
Today's Fortune
Bad Luck
THERE JUST AREN'T A LOT OF THINGS YOU CAN DO IN FIVE MINUTES!

... NEUROTIC GUYS LIKE ME WILL...
IF YOU START SAYING EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE THEN...

...WHAT CAN YOU DO IN FIVE MINUTES ANYWAY?
YEAH, I HEAR PEOPLE SAY STUFF LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME, BUT...

...FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF BEING FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!

...GET SO ANXIOUS THAT WE'LL WANT TO BE...

NEXT THING YOU KNOW I'LL BE DOING EVERYTHING *FIVE HOURS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.*

I'LL BE FIFTEEN MINUTES AHEAD, THEN TWENTY MINUTES, AND SO ON AND SO ON...

TEN MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

FIFTEEN MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

TWENTY MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

AND THEN I'LL FREAK OUT AND DECIDE I SHOULD BE FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF BEING FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF BEING FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

はぅ AH

ONCE I START WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING, THERE'S NO END.

YOU KNOW HOW NEUROTIC I AM...

...JUST TO AVOID BEING LATE.

I'LL END UP WASTING MY ENTIRE DAY...

...ANOTHER STORY AND SUDDENLY EVERYONE'S SHOUTING "RIP OFF!"

YA KNOW, THESE DAYS, SOMETHING CAN BE JUST VAGUELY SIMILAR TO ...

...I GET OVERWHELMED WITH ANXIETY!

IF I DON'T CHECK EVERY MAGAZINE, AND TV SHOW OUT THERE...

...STORY ABOUT THIS BEFORE, HAVE THEY?

NOBODY'S DONE A MANGA...

IF SOMEONE SEES A SIMILARLY COMPOSED DRAWING SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEY'LL THINK WE COPIED IT!
I'M TALKING ABOUT CHARACTER POSES TOO... AND COMPOSITION.
...THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE.
WE'VE GOTTA COME UP WITH POSES AND COMPOSITIONS...
UNCOMFORTABLE AND EMBARRASSING?
THIS POSE IS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE, NOT TO MENTION EMBARRASSING!
SPEAK IN A LANGUAGE THAT NOBODY ON THIS PLANET UNDERSTANDS!
DON'T SPEAK JAPANESE ANYMORE.
THE JAS*AC COPYRIGHT COMMITTEE WILL CHARGE US A HUGE FEE!
WHAT IF THAT'S A LINE IN SOME SONG?

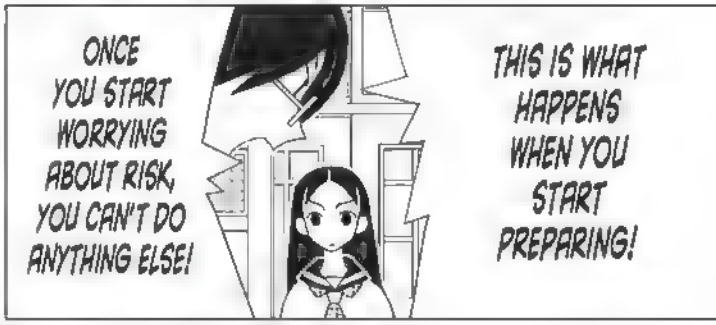
HONDORI DADORIDADON BOOBOE.
ZURUNBI BOBONHABA.
PAPESSO KARON-PARU.
SUBE-BEBABEE.

ガバッ
FWUP
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

HUH?

ZUBABA BOBEBABA.

.....
I'M NEVER GONNA PREPARE AGAIN!


ONCE YOU START WORRYING ABOUT RISK, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU START PREPARING!

...CRAZY STUFF JUST NOW WAS TO COVER YOUR ASS IN CASE SOMEONE ELSE HAS ALREADY DONE A STORY LIKE THIS. IN OTHER WORDS...YOU WERE PREPARING!
THE ONLY REASON YOU MADE US DO ALL THAT...

YOU'RE TOTALLY PREPARING.
WH-WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?

PREPARING WILL GET YOU NOWHERE!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE THAT BACK.
NO I'M NOT!

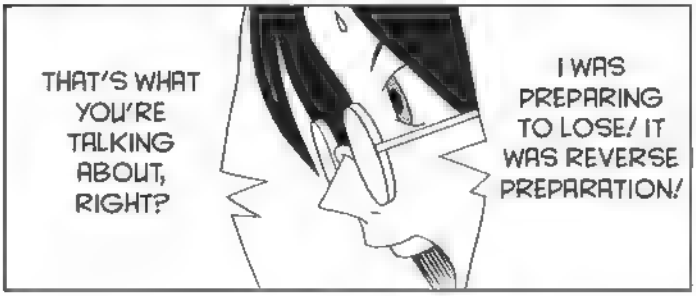
WHY DID YOU TACK ON (IN THAT MANGA KUNIMATSU NO MATSURI)? YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO BE PREPARED, WEREN'T YOU?
.....
REMEMBER, THERE WAS A HUGE PROBLEM WITH FLU VACCINES HAVING SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS (IN THAT MANGA KUNIMATSU NO MATSURI)

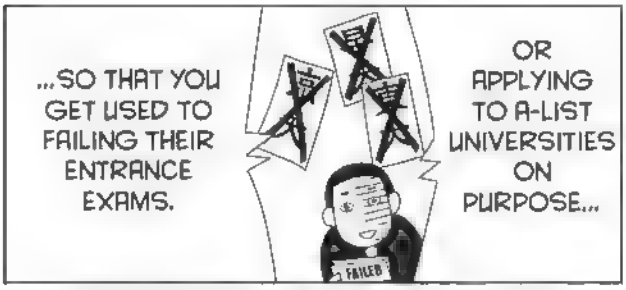
SEE! YOU'RE ALWAYS PREPARED, SENSEI.

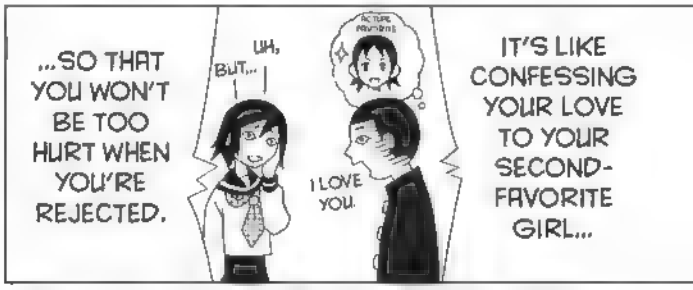
...NOBODY WOULD ACCUSE YOU OF RIPPING IT OFF.
YOU WERE CREDITING THAT MANGA SO THAT...

AND LOSERS NEED PREPARATION MORE THAN ANYONE.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING PREPARED, YA KNOW?

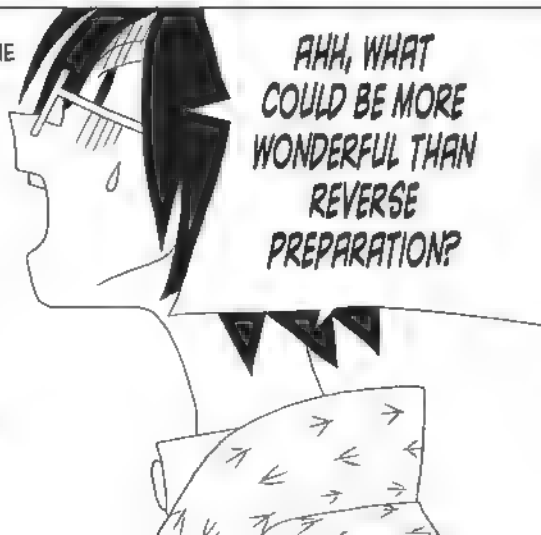
IT'S A GOOD THING.
I AM NOT!






...SO THAT YOU WON'T BE TOO HURT WHEN YOU'RE REJECTED.
UH, BUT...
ACTUAL FAVORITE
I LOVE YOU.
IT'S LIKE CONFESSING YOUR LOVE TO YOUR SECOND-FAVORITE GIRL...

- PICKING A WEAK BASEBALL TEAM WHEN PLAYING THE VIDEO GAME FAMILY STADIUM, SO THAT YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE FOR LOSING.
- SAYING "IT'S AN HONOR JUST TO BE AT THE OLYMPICS."
- COACH NOMURA SAYING, "OUR GOAL IS TO WIN THIRTY-NINE GAMES. (ONLY ONE MORE THAN LAST YEAR)."
- RESTAURANTS THAT ADVERTISE "HOME-COOKED" MEALS.
- COMMUTING TO WORK EVERY DAY ON THE CHUO LINE.
- A BASEBALL PLAYER RETIRING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON.
- A PUBLISHER SAYING, *"EVERYONE AGREED THAT WE SHOULD PUBLISH THIS SERIES."*
- THE STORIES, CHARACTERS, AND INCIDENTS MENTIONED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL.



コエンザイム
10Q
針
27
REVERSE PREPARATION IS AWESOME.
GROUP F
BRAZIL
ARGENTINA
ITALY
JAPAN
JAPAN
JAPAN'S WORLD CUP LOSS WOULD HAVE BEEN WAY LESS HUMILIATING IF THEY'D PLAYED AGAINST THESE TEAMS. AT LEAST THEY'D HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THEIR LOSS.
YOU NEED TO PREPARE WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
REVERSE PREPARATION IS DESPICABLE.
カン
CLACK
カン
CLACK
EVERY-BODY'S TALKING ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK.
ひそ
WHISPER
ひそ
WHISPER
ひそ
WHISPER
ひそ
WHISPER
HA HA HA
おはは
...BEFORE THEY KILL ME.
I'D BETTER KILL THEM...

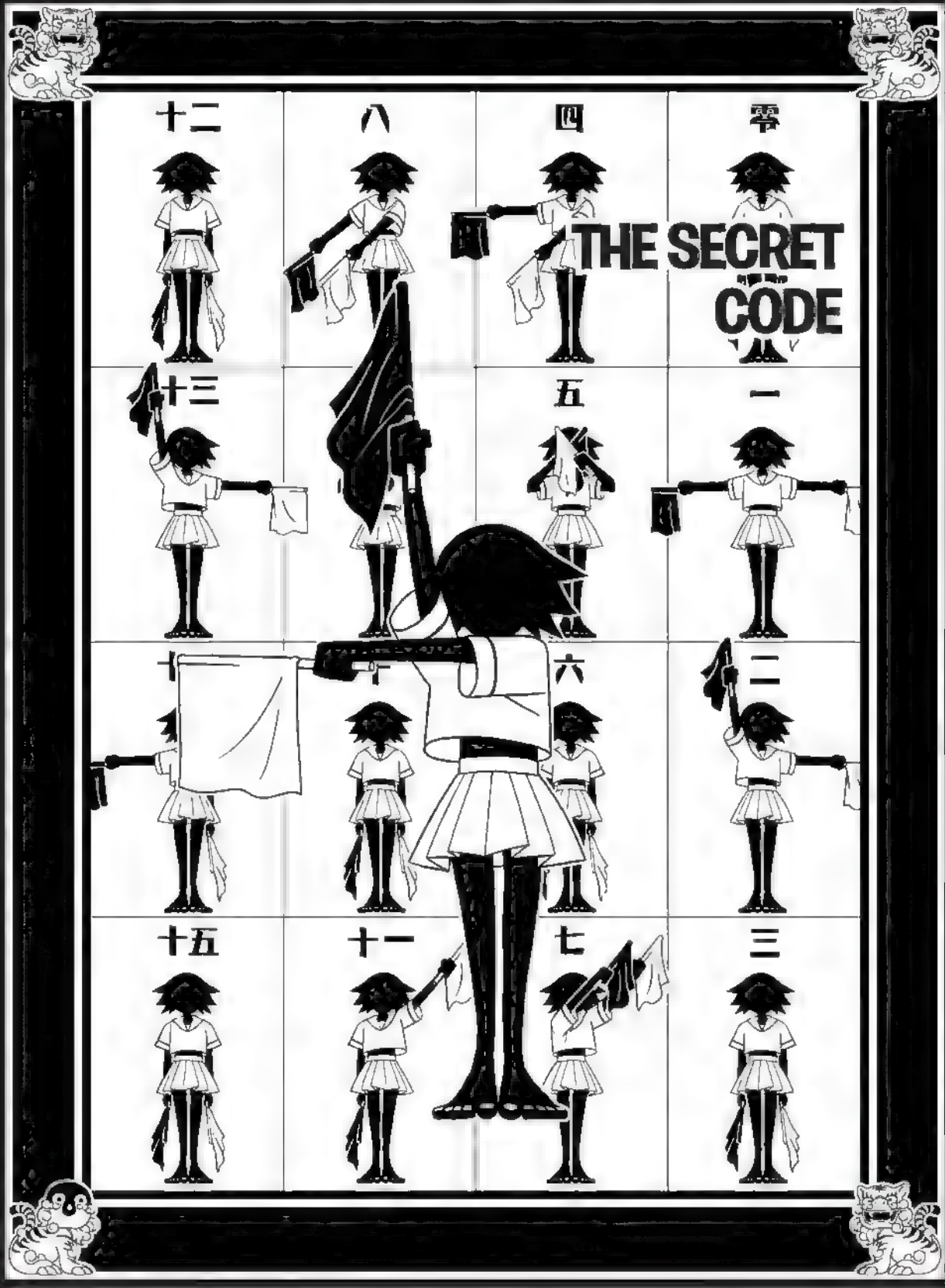
...OF PREPARATION THERE IS!
A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE IS THE BEST KIND...

I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING!
NO!

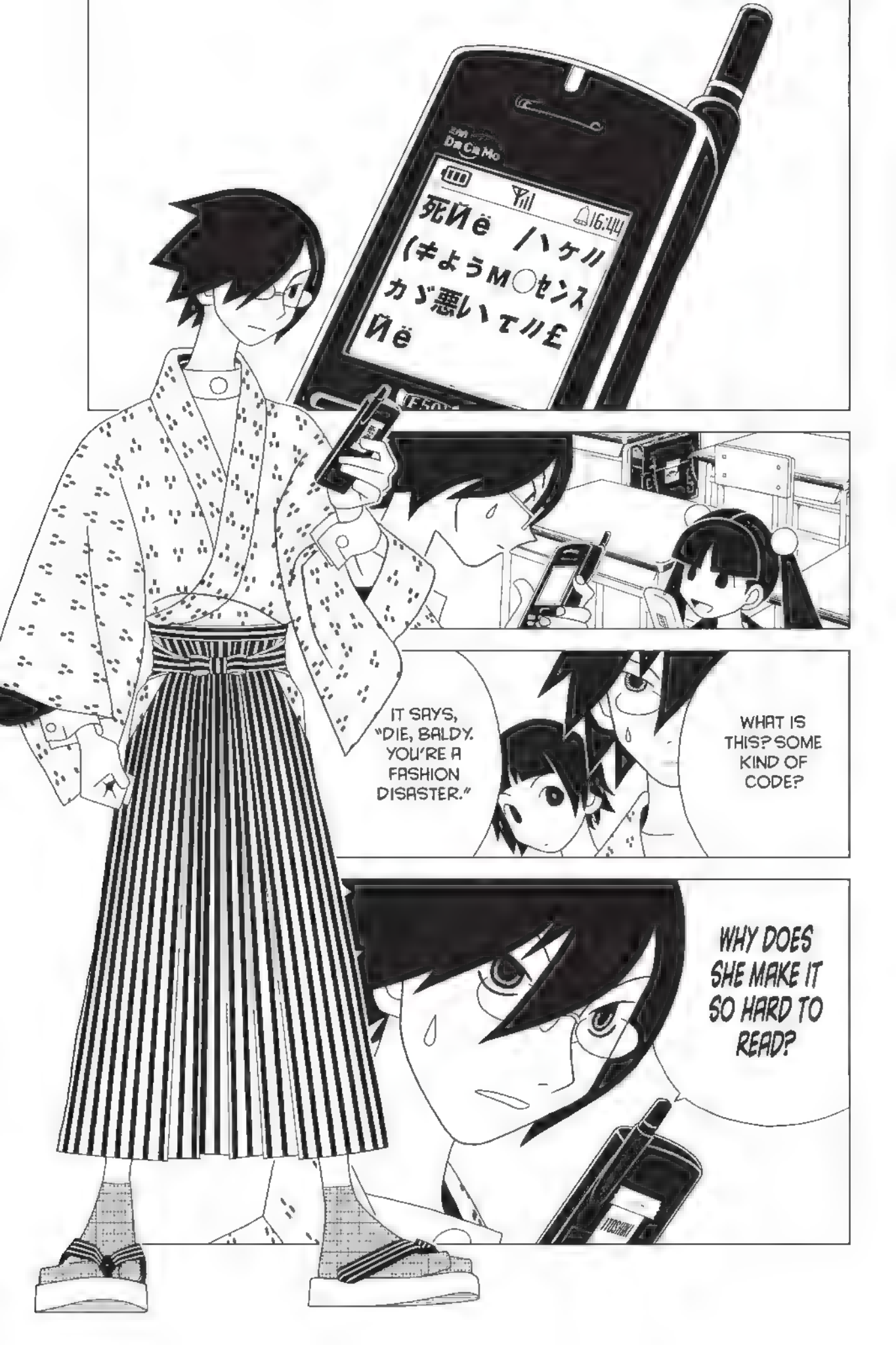
ぶんぶん
SWING
SWING
SO? DID YOU SEE THE ASSAILANT'S FACE?

KEEP OUT
OUT KEEP

SEE, YOU'RE PREPARING AGAIN!
VOLUME SIX IS REALLY BORING.



CHAPTER 49


16:44
死Иё ハゲ
(キょうM○センス
カ゛悪いてル£
Иё
IT SAYS, "DIE, BALDY. YOU'RE A FASHION DISASTER."
WHAT IS THIS? SOME KIND OF CODE?
WHY DOES SHE MAKE IT SO HARD TO READ?

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS IN THIS WORLD...

...WRITTEN IN *SENSELESS SECRET CODE!*

SENSELESS SECRET CODE?

PEOPLE HIDE THINGS IN COMPLICATED CODE EVEN WHEN IT'S TOTALLY UNNECESSARY.

OR HOW THEY TEACH ENGLISH IN JAPAN!

OR HOW THEY SCORE A FIGURE SKATER'S PERFORMANCE.

OR THE DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR A TAX REFUND!

SOCIAL SECURITY

Tax Office

HUH?

LIKE OUR CONFUSING SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM!

THESE MIGHT AS WELL BE WRITTEN IN SECRET CODE!

建物賃貸

THIS COMPANY IS IN THE BUSINESS OF RENDERING SERVICES TO BUSINESSES, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...

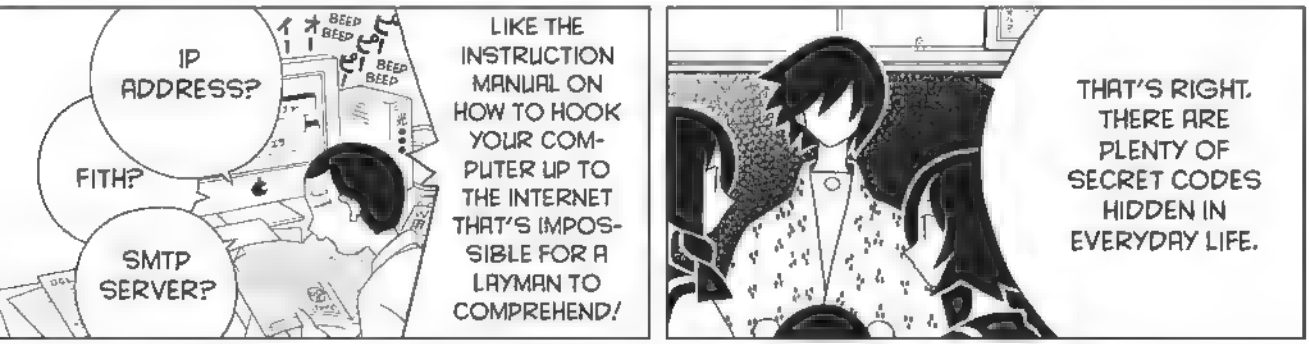
THE APPLICANT IS A PROFESSIONAL PROVIDING A SERVICE TO BUSINESSES, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...

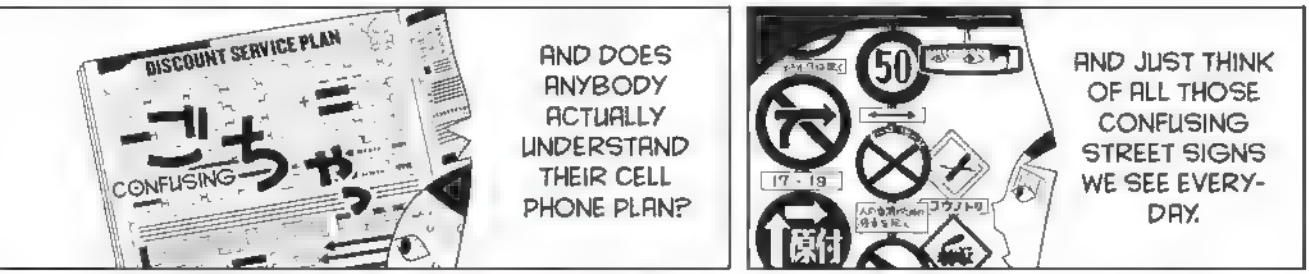
ぱん

FLAP

LOOK AT THESE DOCUMENTS.

... WHO DON'T WANT THE PUBLIC TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
SECRET CODES ARE USED BY GOVERNMENT BUREAU-CRATS...
ONE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THEY ARE INTENTIONALLY TRYING TO CONFUSE THE PUBLIC.

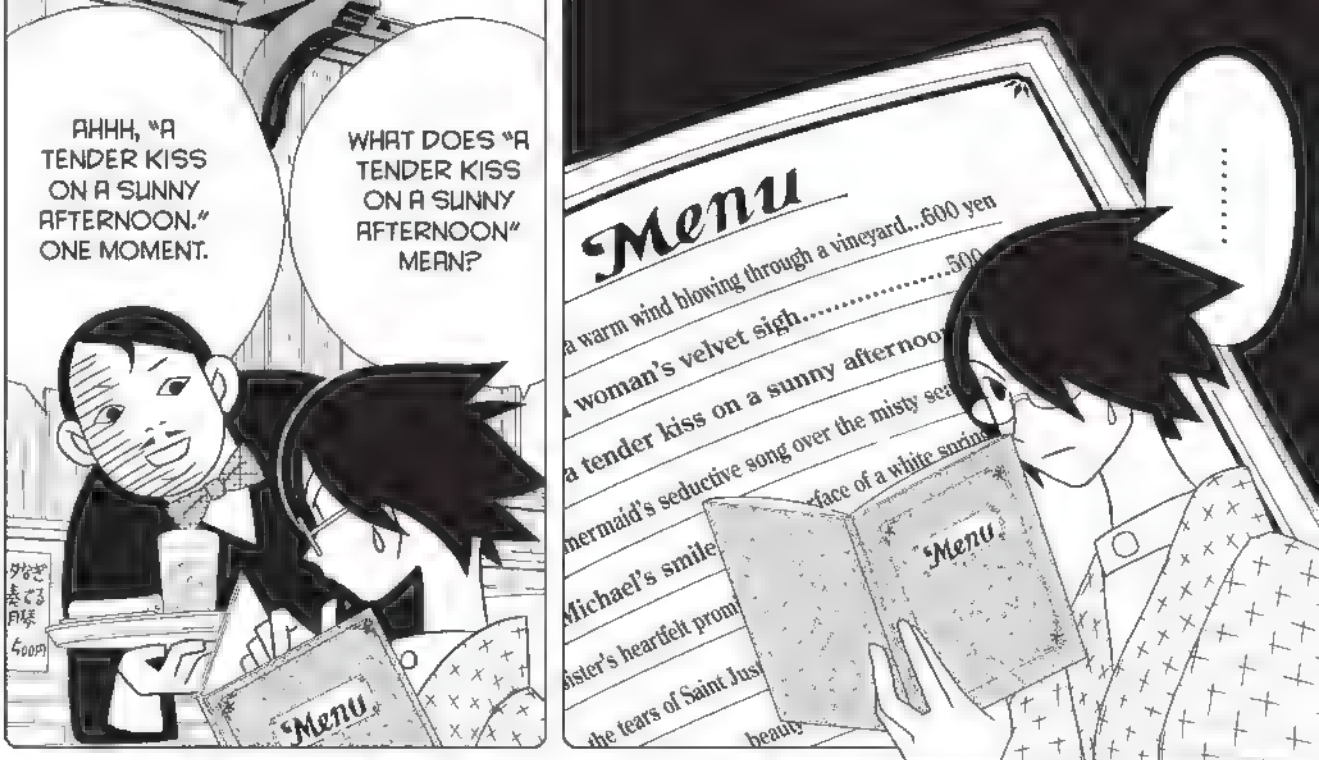

IP ADDRESS?
FITH?
SMTP SERVER?
BEEP BEEP
LIKE THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL ON HOW TO HOOK YOUR COM-PUTER UP TO THE INTERNET THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE FOR A LAYMAN TO COMPREHEND!
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE ARE PLENTY OF SECRET CODES HIDDEN IN EVERYDAY LIFE.


DISCOUNT SERVICE PLAN
CONFUSING
AND DOES ANYBODY ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND THEIR CELL PHONE PLAN?
AND JUST THINK OF ALL THOSE CONFUSING STREET SIGNS WE SEE EVERY-DAY.

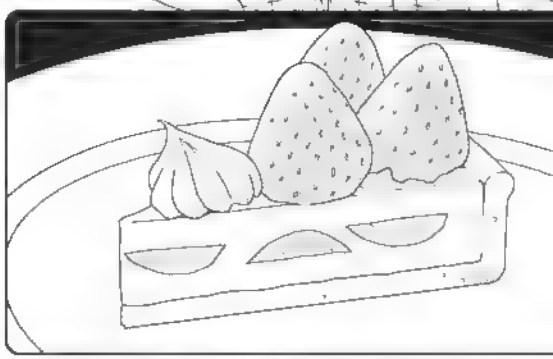
I'VE LOST ALL FAITH IN OUR SECRET CODE SOCIETY!
IT'S HOPE-LESS.

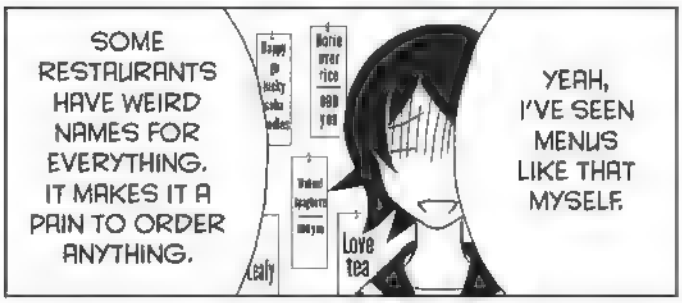
Café Caesar
Café Caesar
I MEAN, I WAS AT A CAFÉ JUST THE OTHER DAY AND...

• THE NEW BASEBALL RULE THAT PROHIBITS PITCHERS FROM STOPPING DURING A PITCH
• BUILDING SAFETY CODES
• SEVEN-DIGIT ZIP CODES
• MITSUBISHI TOKYO UFJ BANK
• MANGA THAT COME WITH A CHRONOLOGICAL MAP OF THE STORY
• THE LATEST FINAL FANTASY GAME
• ACTRESS YUMIKO SHAKU'S [redacted]
• THE POPULAR QUIZ SHOW SEKAI FUSHIGI HAKKEN
• CELEBRITY NORIPI'S WAY OF TALKING
• MITSURU NAKAMURA'S NEW WRITING CAREER
• BASEBALL PITCHERS WHO FLASH TONS OF COMPLICATED HAND SIGNALS EVEN THOUGH THEY CAN ONLY THROW CURVE BALLS AND FAST BALLS
• THE SOCCER COACH ZICO USING THE 3-5-2 AND 4-4-2 STRATEGIES
• HARUKI MURAKAMI'S WRITING STYLE
• THE RAP VERSION OF THE SONG "OKURI KOTOBA"
• GETTING TICKETS FOR THE "MEI AND SATSUKI'S HOUSE" EXHIBI-TION AT THE AICHI EXPO
• THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T APPLY FOR A JOB ANYMORE UNLESS YOU [redacted]
I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY HAVE TO MAKE THINGS SO COMPLICATED.

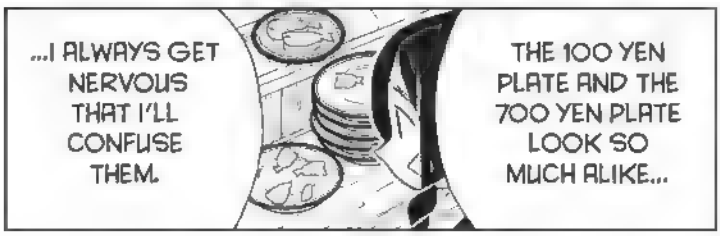

AHHH, "A TENDER KISS ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON." ONE MOMENT.
WHAT DOES "A TENDER KISS ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON" MEAN?
Menu
a warm wind blowing through a vineyard...600 yen
a woman's velvet sigh.....500
a tender kiss on a sunny afternoo
mermaid's seductive song over the misty se
Michael's smile
sister's heartfelt prom
the tears of Saint Jus
beauty
.....
Menu

HERE'S "A TENDER KISS ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON."
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST CALL IT A STRAWBERRY TART?

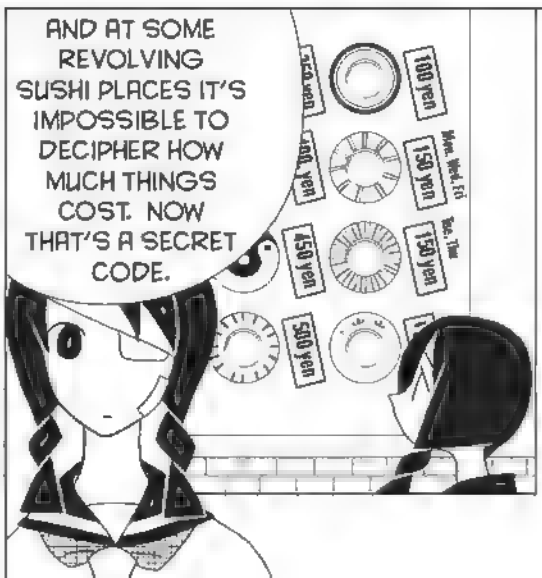



SOME RESTAURANTS HAVE WEIRD NAMES FOR EVERYTHING. IT MAKES IT A PAIN TO ORDER ANYTHING.
Love tea
YEAH, I'VE SEEN MENUS LIKE THAT MYSELF.

IT'S A SECRET CODE, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
WHAT THE HELL IS "A TENDER KISS ON A SUNNY AFTER-NOON"?


...I ALWAYS GET NERVOUS THAT I'LL CONFUSE THEM.
THE 100 YEN PLATE AND THE 700 YEN PLATE LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE...

...IS THIS SOME KIND OF SECRET CODE TOO?
WELL, THEN...


AND AT SOME REVOLVING SUSHI PLACES IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DECIPHER HOW MUCH THINGS COST. NOW THAT'S A SECRET CODE.
100 yen
150 yen
450 yen
550 yen

BUT THEY STRETCHED THE STORY OUT AND PUBLISHED IT IN HARDCOVER.
THIS WHOLE STORY COULD BE TOLD IN JUST TWO PAGES. I MEAN, IT'S REALLY JUST ABOUT THE HEROINE DYING.
IT'S GOTTA BE WRITTEN IN SECRET CODE.
I-I'VE NEVER HEARD YOU BE SO HARSH, KUDO-KUN.
LIFE INSURANCE CONTRACTS ARE WRITTEN IN SECRET CODE TOO.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT ORDER YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO READ IT IN.
SOMETIMES THE PANELS IN SHOJO MANGA ARE REALLY CONFUSING.
ANYWAY, THIS WORLD IS FULL OF SECRET CODES!
THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.
THE ONLY REASON THEY DO IT IS TO TRY TO GET OUT OF PAYING.
...WHEN HE'S USING A FAKE GUY'S NAME TO HIDE A GIRL'S NUMBER IN HIS CONTACT LIST.
WHEN I LOOK AT A GUY'S PHONE, I CAN ALWAYS TELL...
PHONEBOOK
GROUP FRIENDS
REIJI TANAKA
FUJIHIKO MIKIMOTO
008. ERIC KAMEI
009. SAYUMICHI MICHISHIGE
010. KOHARUO KUZUMI
MENU
BACK
MARUFUKU
SWIP
UM...I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD AT CRACKING CODES.
OH, YOU'RE STILL THERE?

IF YOU USE THIS MACHINE, IT'S EVEN EASIER.
...AN *ENIGMA MACHINE!*
TH-THAT'S...
THE AMERICAN MILITARY WAS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR AN ENIGMA MACHINE!
FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
THE SECRET CODE ENIGMA WAS CREATED BY THE GERMAN MILITARY DURING WORLD WAR TWO. IT WAS CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE TO CRACK THE ENIGMA CODE.
...IT CAN CRACK PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING THAT'S WRITTEN IN SECRET CODE.
THIS IS AN IMPROVED VERSION OF THE MACHINE, AND...
LET'S SEE...
HERE WE GO.
カタカタ
CLICK CLICK
LET'S DECODE DO**MO'S CELL PHONE PRICING PLAN.

...THE STUPIDER YOU ARE THE MORE YOU PAY!
IT SAYS...
I GUESS THEY DON'T GIVE DISCOUNTS TO STUPID PEOPLE.
SO THAT'S WHAT IT REALLY MEANS?
H-HOW AWFUL!
LET'S SEE... IT SAYS.....
HERE WE GO.
チ~ DING
IT'S SO COMPLICATED, IT'S GOTTA BE WRITTEN IN SECRET CODE.
LET'S DECODE YOUR LEASE AGREEMENT, SENSEI.
...YOUR DEPOSIT BACK!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING...
YES, I'M AFRAID SO.
WHAT? IS THAT WHAT IT SAYS?

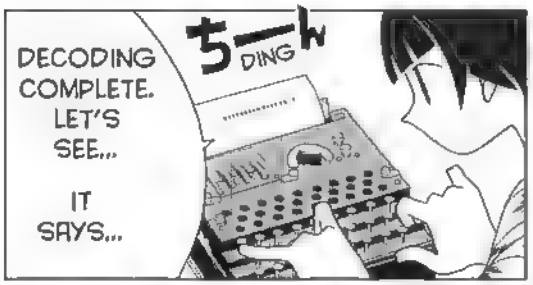
OKAY, LET'S DECODE IT.
MULTICASTING, SIMULTANEOUS AIR, SDTV, ONE SEGMENT BROADCASTING, ANALOG TRANSITION...BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...
Guide to the Digital TV Transition
HERE'S A PAMPHLET ABOUT THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION THAT'S COMING IN 2011, BUT IT'S SO CONFUSING.

...BE WATCHING TELEVISION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IF YOU'RE TOO POOR TO BUY A NEW TV, THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T...

LET'S SEE... IT SAYS...
DING
ちーん

I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS!
SO IF YOU'RE POOR, YOU WON'T GET TO SEE ****YO MARUKAWA'S PORES AND BLEMISHES CLEARLY!

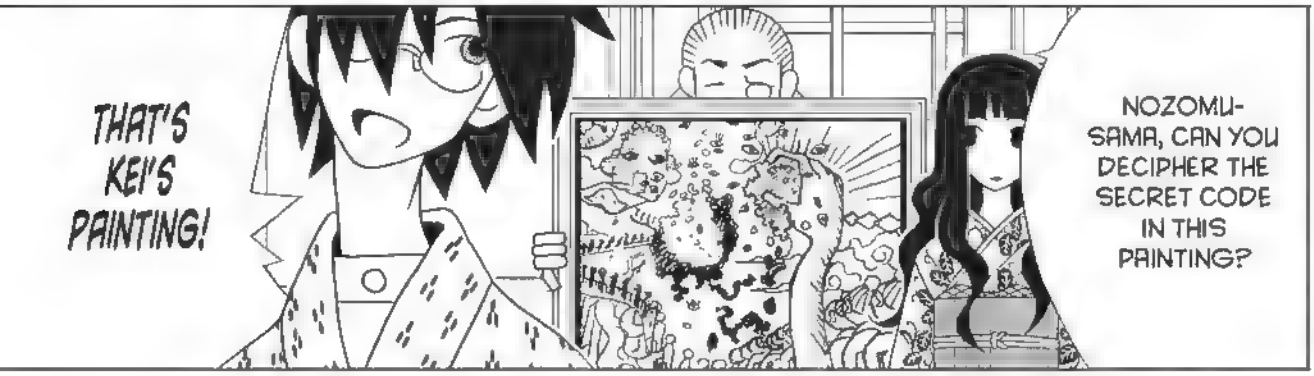
WE'RE GONNA BE DIGITAL ANNOUNCERS.
THEN WHAT DOES THAT WEIRD COMMERCIAL MEAN?


DECODING COMPLETE. LET'S SEE... IT SAYS...
ちーん
DING

...THAT MY FRIEND PASSED ON TO ME, BUT IT'S SUPER COMPLICATED...
Contract
THIS IS A CONTRACT BETWEEN A WRITER AND A CERTAIN MAGAZINE...

...FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
YOU'RE GONNA BE STUCK WORKING FOR OUR MAGAZINE...

- SAVE UP POINTS AND YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR AN EXTENDED WARRANTY. → YOU'RE BETTER OFF JUST BUYING IT OUTRIGHT.
- YOU GET A TAX BREAK IF YOU BUY A HYBRID. → WE DON'T REALLY WANNA PAY ANYONE, BUT AT LEAST THIS SHOWS WE'RE MAKING AN EFFORT.
- PLAIN RAMEN ONLY 600 YEN (ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR TOPPINGS). → IF YOU WANT EGG AND A SLICE OF PORK IN IT, GET READY TO PAY 1,000 YEN.
- THE ANTI-CONSPIRACY LAW → IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME AS THE PRE-WAR "MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT."
- INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS DEPARTING TOKYO HANEDA AIRPORT VIA KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT → KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NEEDS TO COLLECT EXTRA AIRPORT USAGE FEES.
- THE PLANET CORIN → CHIBA PREFECTURE
- TRANSFERRING TRAINS AT THE TOCHOLMAE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT STOP ON THE OOEDO LINE → THE OOEDO LINE IS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ONLY, THE PUBLIC SHOULD JUST ACCEPT IT.
- OUR NATIONAL DIGNITY → THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI

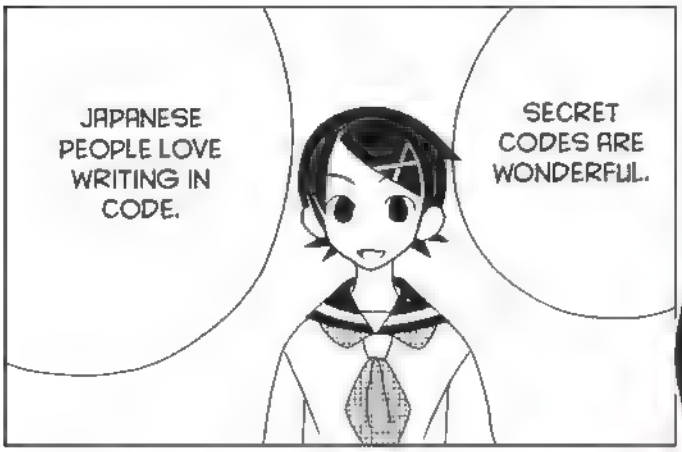


THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY'S DARKEST SECRETS ARE HIDDEN WITHIN IT. IT'S CALLED THE ITOSHIKI CODE!
THIS PAINTING IS KNOWN AS THE JAPANESE DA VINCI CODE.

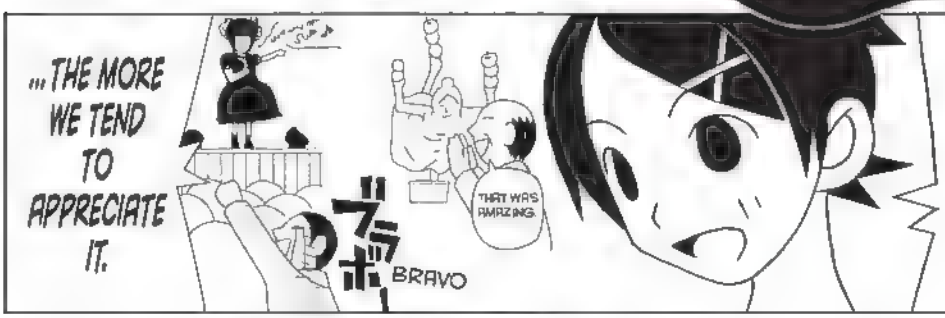
...A RECIPE FOR SWEET BEAN CAKES.

SPREAD THE COOKED RED BEAN PASTE ON THE PALM OF YOUR HAND AND PLACE A BALL OF GLUTINOUS RICE IN THE MIDDLE. COAT THE RICE WITH THE BEAN PASTE. ENJOY THE TRADITIONAL (TOSHIKI) FLAVOR THAT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER FOR GENERATIONS.
YEAH.
WHAT? THAT'S ALL IT IS?

HUH?


JAPANESE PEOPLE LOVE WRITING IN CODE.
SECRET CODES ARE WONDERFUL.

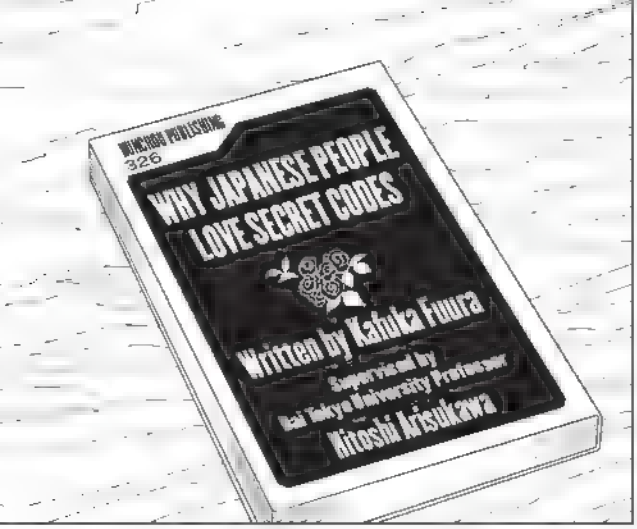
YOU GAVE AWAY OUR FAMILY SECRET.
AAARHHH


...THE MORE WE TEND TO APPRECIATE IT.
THAT WAS AMAZING
BRAVO

THE MORE COMPLICATED SOMETHING IS...

...IN FAVOR OF A CRAZY, ABSTRACT PIECE WHERE THE MUSICIAN SLAMS HER ELBOWS ON THE PIANO.
OR IGNORING A SIMPLE PIECE OF MUSIC WITH A LOVELY MELODY...

...THAN TO A SIMPLE, WELL-WRITTEN MANGA.
TCH
HMMMM
YOU KNOW, LIKE GIVING MORE RESPECT TO A CONFUSING, UNREADABLE NOVEL ...



TRY MAKING IT INTO ONE OF THOSE BOOKS PUBLISHED BY A UNIVERSITY PRESS AND COME UP WITH A CATCHY TITLE.

PEOPLE LOOK DOWN ON YOUR STORY BECAUSE IT'S MANGA, SENSEI.

BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY SAY ANYTHING AT ALL.

WOW, IT LOOKS SO FANCY!

JUST MAKE EVERY SENTENCE REALLY CONVOLUTED AND CONFUSING.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE A SECRET RECIPE.

WELL, DO YOU KNOW WHY?

YOU KNOW HOW THE WORST RAMEN RESTAURANTS ARE THE MOST ADAMANT ABOUT GUARDING THEIR "SECRET RECIPE"?

THINK OF ALL THE "MYSTERIOUS ECCENTRICS" OUT THERE WHO PEOPLE WORSHIP. IN REALITY, THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF NUTCASES.

I GUESS IT'S THE SAME WITH PEOPLE TOO.

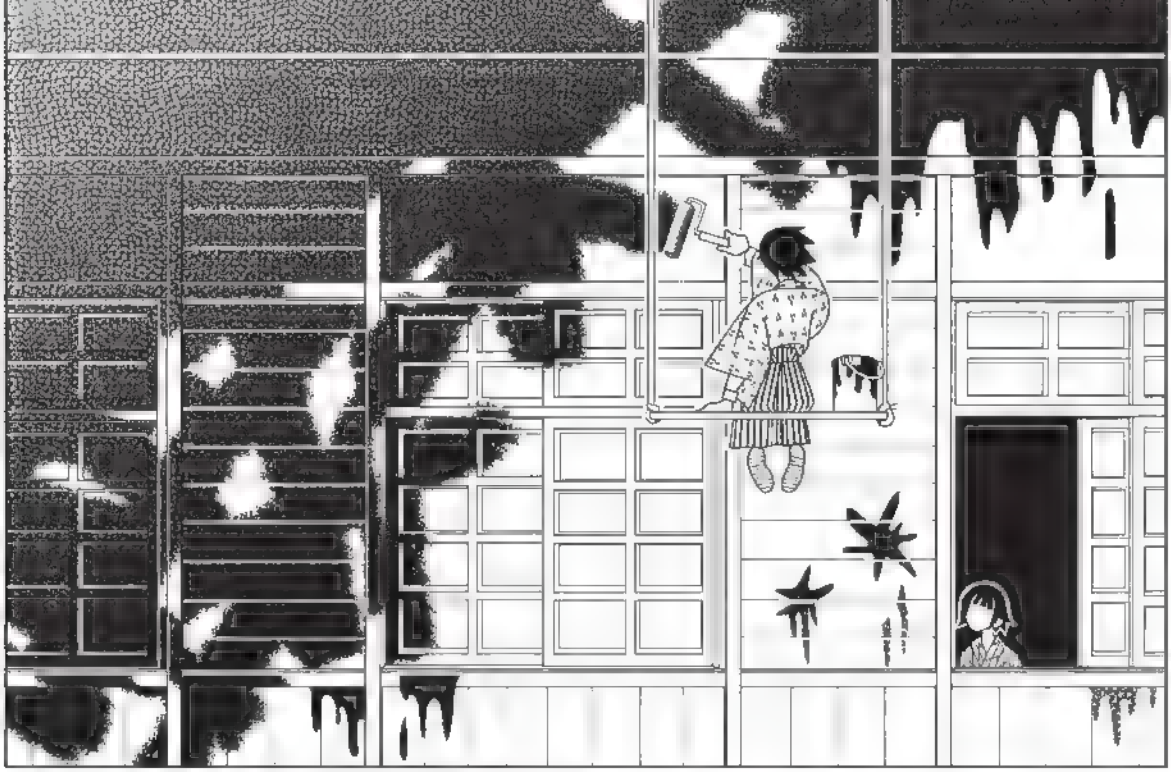
...BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID THEY'LL BE FOUND OUT.

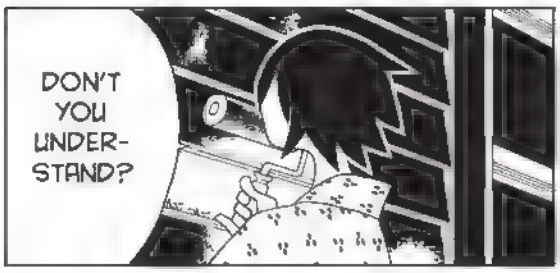
THE WORSE THE FOOD IS, THE HARDER THEY TRY TO PROTECT THEIR "SECRET"...

I'LL JUST START TALKING GIBBERISH AND DOING THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

...PEOPLE WILL START GIVING ME A LITTLE RESPECT.

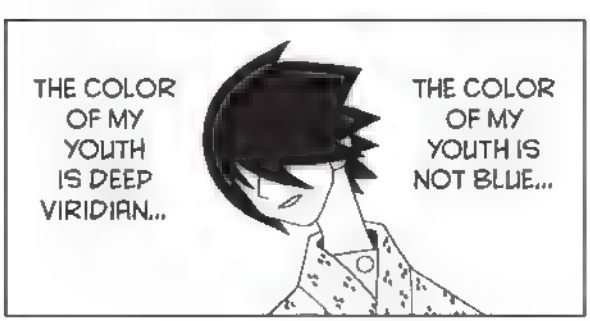
HEY! MAYBE IF I APPLY A SECRET CODE TO MYSELF...




DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

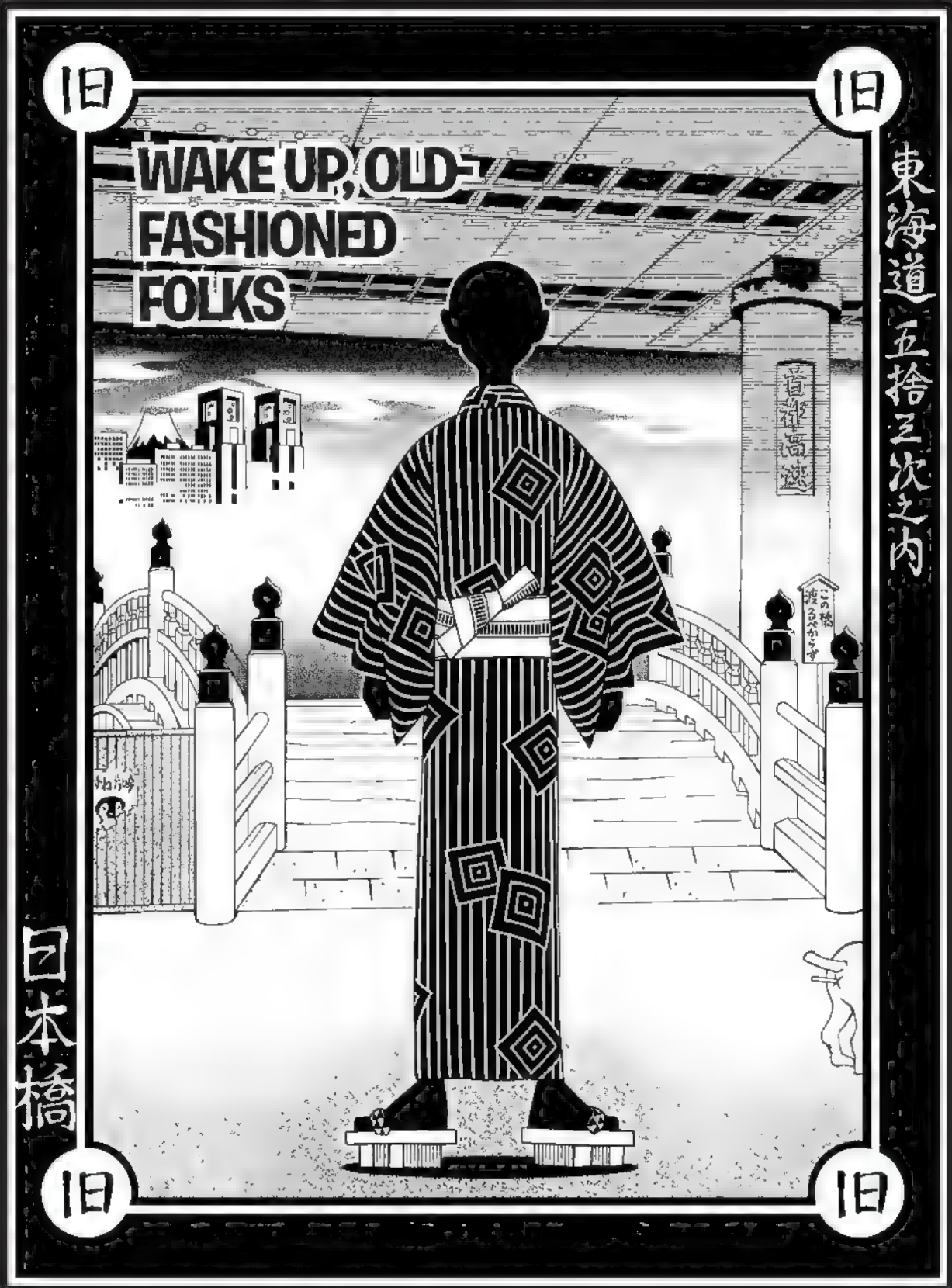
SENSEI, WHY DID YOU PAINT THE CAMPUS YELLOW?

BECAUSE RABBITS ARE YELLOW IN THE SPRING.


THE COLOR OF MY YOUTH IS DEEP VIRIDIAN...
THE COLOR OF MY YOUTH IS NOT BLUE...

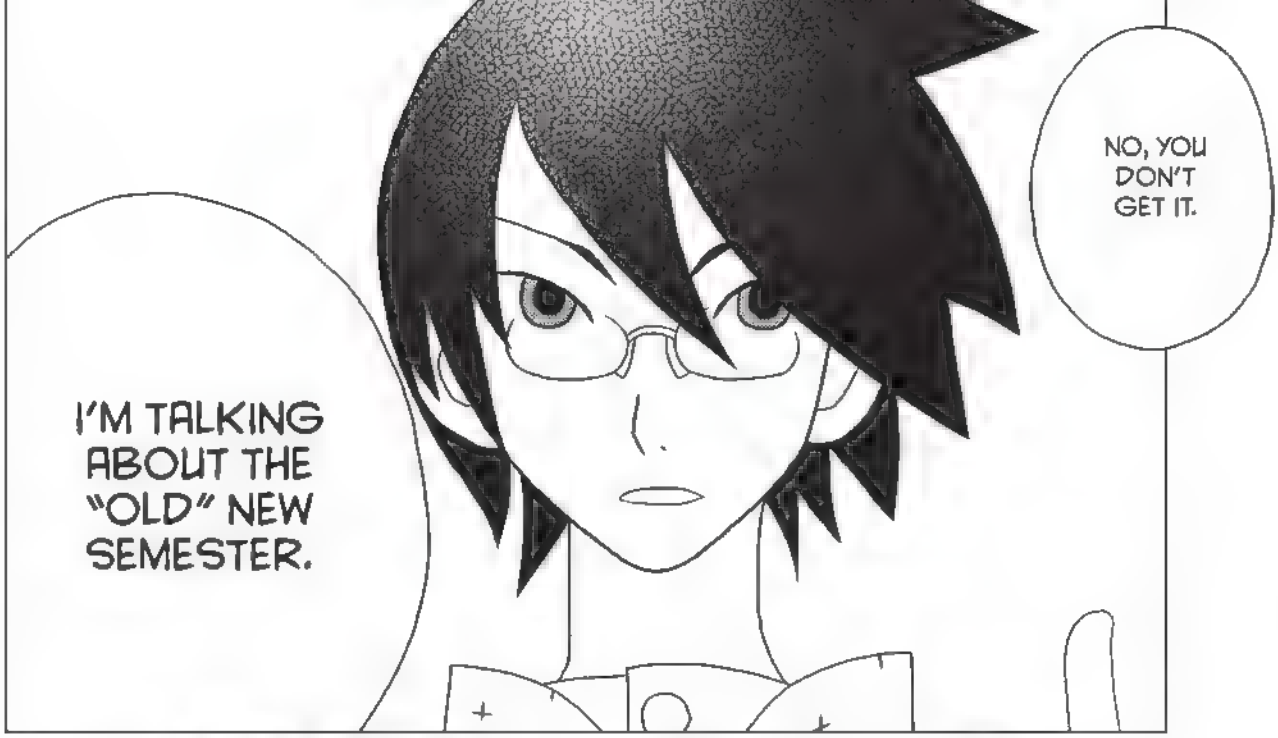
COMPLEX? IT'S NOT EVEN AN ANSWER!
WOW, THAT'S SO COMPLEX AND DEEP.

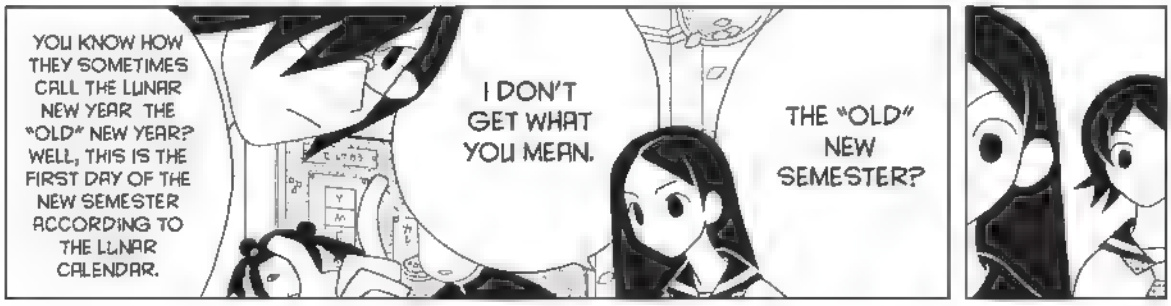
NO, SHE'S JUST CRAZY.
IS THAT A SECRET CODE?
THE SECRET TO THE FUTURE OF MANKIND WAS REVEALED DURING THE INCIDENT AT THE DAM. AS KATO-SAN SAID, HUMANS WERE BORN ON SATURN AND RAISED BY PARUSU AND THE DARK SUN. BUT AMERICANS WERE RAISED EATING BLACK TORUMARIN, FROM THE POISONOUS WATERS OF THE PLANET MEIOU. SAKI TAKAOKA IS THE REINCARNATION OF THE HIGHEST MONK GERU RINPOCHE. THE GEMATOR A FORTUNE-TELLERS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO COME TOGETHER AS ONE WORLD! ONE WORLD!



CHAPTER 50

"A VERY SMALL DEGREE OF HOPE IS SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE THE BIRTH OF LOVE."
—HENRI B. STENDHAL (1783-1842)
TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW SEMESTER.
BUT IT'S ALREADY MAY.
HUH?


NO, YOU DON'T GET IT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE "OLD" NEW SEMESTER.


YOU KNOW HOW THEY SOMETIMES CALL THE LUNAR NEW YEAR THE "OLD" NEW YEAR? WELL, THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW SEMESTER ACCORDING TO THE LUNAR CALENDAR.
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU MEAN.
THE "OLD" NEW SEMESTER?

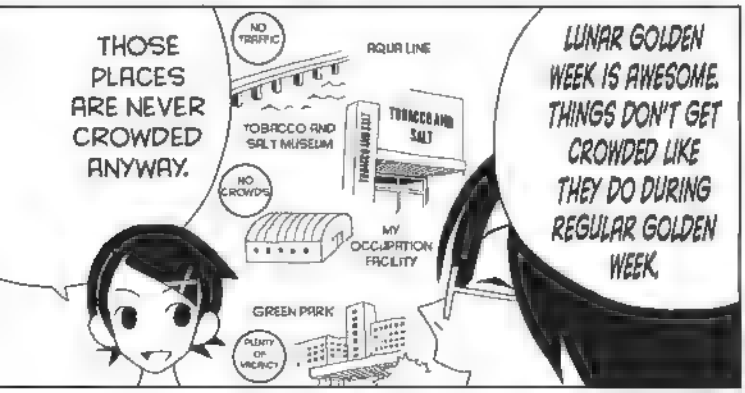
IF THERE'S A LUNAR NEW YEAR...
...THEN THERE SHOULD BE A LUNAR NEW SEMESTER TOO, RIGHT?

IS THERE A LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE TOO?
OF COURSE THERE IS.

AND SHOULDN'T THERE ALSO BE A LUNAR CHRISTMAS...
...AND A LUNAR VALENTINE'S DAY?
OLD

I USED TO GET EXCITED ON LUNAR VALENTINE'S DAY... WONDERING IF I'D GET ANY CHOCOLATE...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
もじもじ
GLARE
ギリ
...AND I USED TO GET JEALOUS WHENEVER I SAW COUPLES TOGETHER ON LUNAR CHRISTMAS.
LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE IS MUCH MORE LAID-BACK THAN REGULAR NEW YEAR'S EVE.
RELAXED
ふだ〜ん
LUNAR NEW YEAR'S SOBA

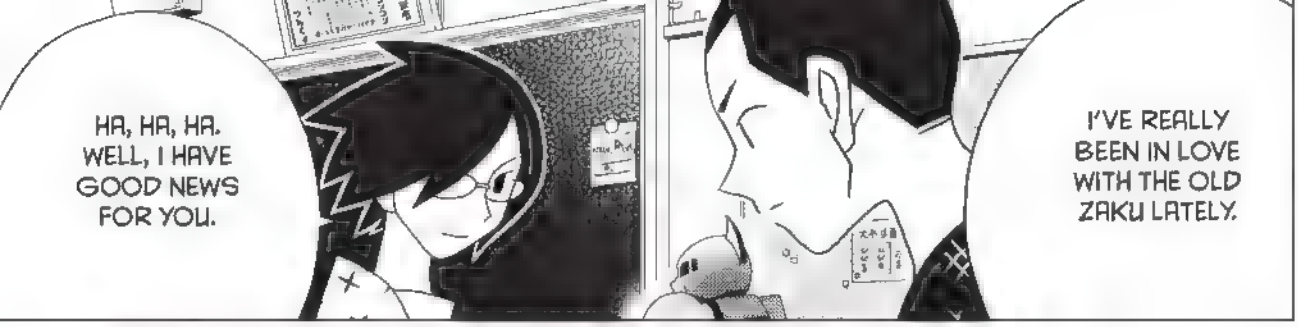
MY NEIGHBORS THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY.
I USED TO THROW BEANS ON LUNAR SETSUBUN ALL BY MYSELF.
WHEN IS LUNAR VALENTINE'S DAY AND LUNAR CHRISTMAS?


THOSE PLACES ARE NEVER CROWDED ANYWAY.
NO TRAFFIC
AQUA LINE
TOBACCO AND SALT MUSEUM
TOBACCO AND SALT
NO CROWDS
MY OCCUPATION FACILITY
GREEN PARK
PLENTY OF VACANCY
LUNAR GOLDEN WEEK IS AWESOME. THINGS DON'T GET CROWDED LIKE THEY DO DURING REGULAR GOLDEN WEEK.

YOU'RE GONNA TAKE THE WEEK OFF, AREN'T YOU?
OH YEAH, LUNAR GOLDEN WEEK IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER... I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

OH, YOU'RE...
I'M A MAN WHO LOVES EVERYTHING "OLD."
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW WONDERFUL
CLAP
ぱち
ぱち
CLAP

...MY "OLD" FRIEND...
YES. YOUR "OLD" FRIEND.
UH...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR NAME.
NOR I YOURS.
AREN'T OLD FRIENDS SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY CLOSE?
MAYBE HE MEANS THAT THEY USED TO BE FRIENDS A LONG TIME AGO.
MY OLD FRIEND LIVES HIS WHOLE LIFE BASED ON THE LUNAR CALENDAR.
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S HOW MUCH I LOVE EVERYTHING OLD.
I DRIVE AN OLD CAR!
I WRITE LOVE LETTERS WITH OLD JAPANESE CHARACTERS.
AND I WALK ALONG THE OLD TOKAIDO TRAIL!
I adore you, my love. I adore your skin. Don't ever change. I love you to death.


I'VE REALLY BEEN IN LOVE WITH THE OLD ZAKU LATELY.
HA, HA, HA. WELL, I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.

THIS IS THE OLD CAMPUS.

HA HA HA HA HA
わはは はは はは
WHAT ARE THEY BLABBING ABOUT?

I'M VISITING THE OLD CAMPUS TO SEE AN OLD FRIEND.

NOBODY LOVES OLD THINGS THE WAY I DO.
ANYWAY, I LOVE EVERYTHING OLD. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'M "OLD" CRAZY!

GEEZ. YOU COULD AT LEAST CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY ON THE ACTUAL DAY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OH YEAH... AFTER OLD GOLDEN WEEK COMES OLD MOTHER'S DAY.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

MY OLD MOTHER IS...
...MY TRUE MOTHER.

I AGREE WITH YOU, OLD FRIEND.
I THINK JAPANESE PEOPLE IGNORE OLD THINGS FAR TOO MUCH.

I DON'T GET ALONG WITH MY NEW MOTHER.
ずーん
SHOCK
OH, I SEE.

LET'S GO SEE JUST HOW MUCH OLD THINGS ARE MISTREATED...
...IN JAPANESE SOCIETY.

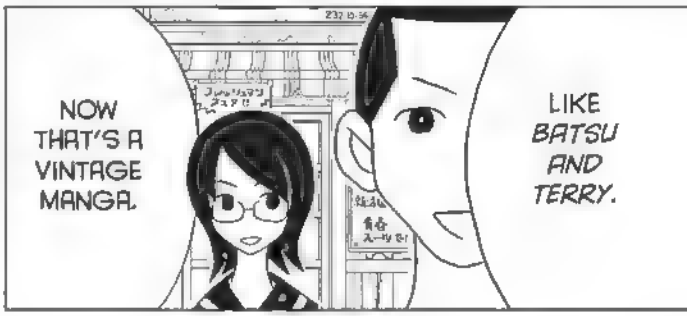
OLD THINGS HAVE NO VALUE UNLESS THEY'RE CONSIDERED VINTAGE.

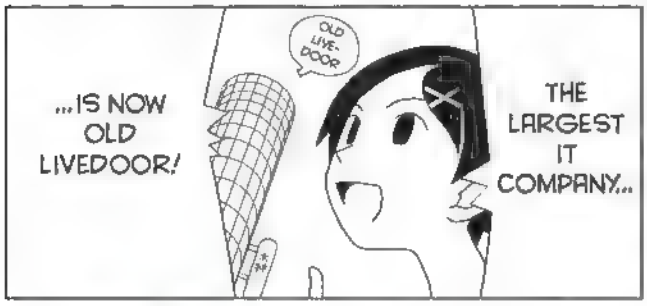
WE'RE AT A COLLEGE CAMPUS.
CHATTER CHATTER
ワイ
WHERE ARE WE?

SHIORI UNIVERSITY

THE OLD FRESHMEN (THE SOPHOMORES) HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN, AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO SNAP.
GRR
ぴっ!!
CHATTER CHATTER
ぼそ
ちゃ
THE NEW FRESHMEN ARE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION IN ALL THE CAMPUS CLUBS.

SNAP
HANG IN THERE, OLD FRESH-MEN!
I'D BETTER GO CHEER THEM UP.
POOR GIRLS...
THEY'LL BE FINE.
THEY SHOULD THROW THEM A WELCOME OLD FRESHMEN PARTY.
HOW DARE YOU CALL US OLD FRESH-MEN!
WHY?
AH, THERE'S A SALARY MAN IN HIS SECOND YEAR OF EMPLOY-MENT.
ONCE THEY BECOME OLD ENOUGH TO BE CALLED "VINTAGE," THEY'LL GET A LITTLE MORE RESPECT.
JUST LOOK AROUND... YOU'LL SEE THAT OLD THINGS ARE MISTREATED EVERYWHERE IN OUR SOCIETY.
SHUT UP!
HEY, OLD NEW HIRE.
A BRAND-NEW MANGA SERIES!
NEW SERIES
Shindaichi Shonen
LIKE THE START OF A BRAND-NEW MANGA SERIES!
PEOPLE ONLY CARE ABOUT "NEW" THINGS.
BOOKS
SHINKO BOOKSTORE
新刊入荷
.....
SHONEN MAGAZINE
SHONEN MAGAZINE
HOT NEW SINGLE
A BRAND-NEW MANGA SERIES....





THE SHIN-SENGUMI* SHOULD BECOME THE OLD-SENGUMI!
OLD
I SAY WE BRING BACK THE OLD!
KYUJYO
THE BALL PLAYER SHINJO SHOULD CHANGE HIS NAME TO OLDJOE.
THE ACTOR ARATA** FURUTA SHOULD CHANGE HIS NAME TO OLD FURUTA.

*SHIN MEANS "NEW." **ARATA ALSO MEANS "NEW."

YOU DON'T HAVE AN OLD NAME, DO YOU?

I'D LOVE TO HAVE AN OLD NAME!
AN OLD NAME?

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT YOU LOVE THE OLD WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN OLD NAME.
UH.

SHOCK

I'VE GOTTA GET MARRIED AND CHANGE MY NAME!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR A GUY TO GET AN OLD NAME.

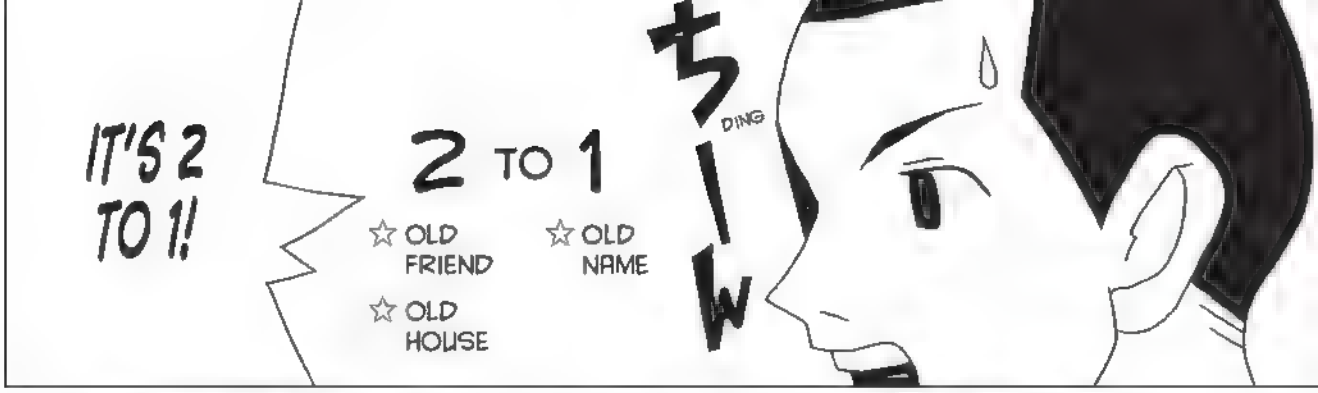
Sho-chan Age 0
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Dogi Otowa-cho
Koishikawa-ku Tokyo
YUMI ITODA
(OLD NAME - ADACHI)
I'D LOVE TO WRITE (OLD NAME ...) UNDER MY REGULAR NAME ON ALL MY NEW YEAR'S GREETING CARDS.

THAT'S SO WRONG! QUIT SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT!
EVERY GIRL IN THIS CLASS HAS BEEN *INVOLVED* WITH THE SENSEI, SO THAT'S NOT GONNA WORK.

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?
めり
SMACK
PLEASE MARRY ME!

AH, THERE'S RIN-CHAN.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
WELL, I HAVE OLD VALUES, SO THAT WOULDN'T WORK FOR ME.
OH, REALLY?
RIN-CHAN HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED.
いやあああ
KYAAAA!
!?
THEN I'LL FINALLY HAVE AN OLD NAME!
NOW LET'S GET MARRIED!
YOU REALLY THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS?
FATHER WILL FIND THIS FAR TOO ENTERTAINING. HE WON'T WANNA PUT A STOP TO IT.
YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP, RIN.
...I'M GONNA DO IT SO THAT I CAN FINALLY GET RID OF THE NAME ITOSHIKI!
IF I GET MAR-RIED..

...AT THE SAME TIME...
LOOK, YOUNG MAN. IF YOU GET MARRIED, SURE YOU'LL GET AN OLD NAME, BUT...
YES, MA'AM.
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS VULGAR MAN, TOKITA!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CALL YOURSELF AN *OLD FRIEND* OF NOZOMU-SAMA'S ANYMORE!
WHAT A DILEMMA!
HE'LL BE YOUR *BROTHER-IN-LAW!*
IT IS A RARE DILEMMA INDEED.
WHICH SHOULD I CHOOSE? AN OLD FRIEND OR AN OLD NAME?
...AN *OLD HOUSE* DON'T YOU, SENSEI?
HEY, YOU LIVE IN...


IT'S 2 TO 1!
2 TO 1
☆ OLD FRIEND
☆ OLD NAME
☆ OLD HOUSE
ちーん
DING

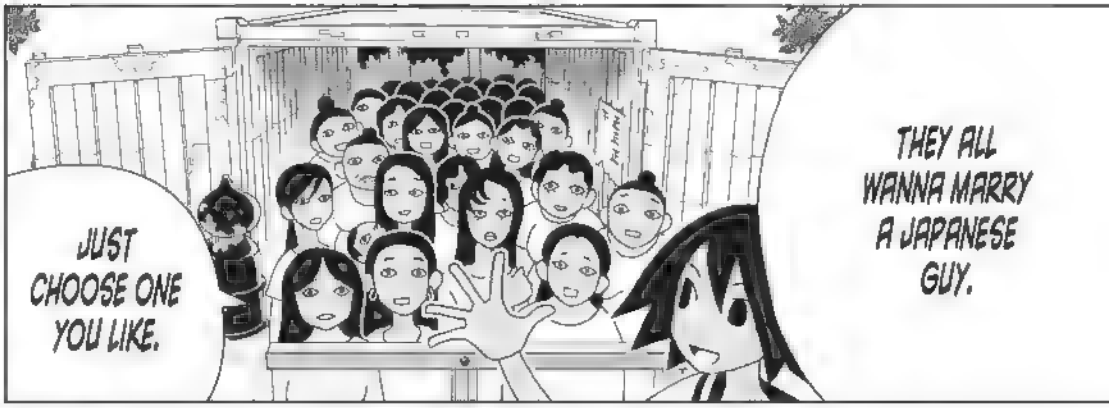
NO YOU'RE NOT!
I'M GONNA MARRY YOU.

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

SHUT UP, TOKITA!
NOW IT'S 3 TO 1!
AND THE ITOSHIKI FAMILY IS A HISTORIC OLD FAMILY, WITH A LONG AND FAMED LINEAGE.

HEY, IF YOU REALLY WANNA GET MARRIED THAT BAD, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME GIRLS.

I FEEL BAD FOR POOR RIN-CHAN.


JUST CHOOSE ONE YOU LIKE.
THEY ALL WANNA MARRY A JAPANESE GUY.

CITIZEN-SHIP!
OLD NAME!

HEY!
WELL, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WIN-WIN SITUATION.
IT'LL JUST BE A PAPER MARRIAGE.

WOW, THEY'RE ALL A PERFECT MATCH FOR ME.
FROM CAMBODIA (OLD DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA)
FROM TURKMEN STAN (OLD SOVIET UNION)
FROM MYANMAR (OLD BURMA)
I'M SURE ONE OF THEM WILL SUIT YOUR FANCY.

THERE'S A WAY TO GET AN OLD NAME WITHOUT ACTUALLY MARRYING SOMEONE.

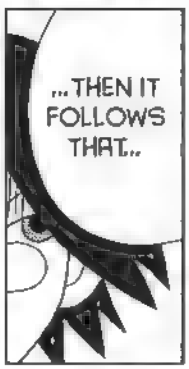
...WON'T YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR OWN NATIONALITY?
BUT IF YOU MARRY THEM...

THAT'S NOT MY OLD NAME! THAT WAS JUST MY NAME IN A PAST LIFE!
YOU WERE A STRUGGLING POET WHO LIVED IN SAINT PETERSBURG DURING THE 17TH CENTURY.
YOUR OLD NAME WAS BEROUZOOROFU THE SIXTH.

ACTUALLY, YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE!

I MEAN, WE ARE OLD FRIENDS AFTER ALL, AREN'T WE?
COME ON, DON'T YOU WANNA JOIN ME ON THIS JOURNEY?

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE FUTURE.
HUH? UH...
...IN YOUR NEXT LIFE, THE NAME YOU HAVE RIGHT NOW WILL BECOME YOUR OLD NAME.

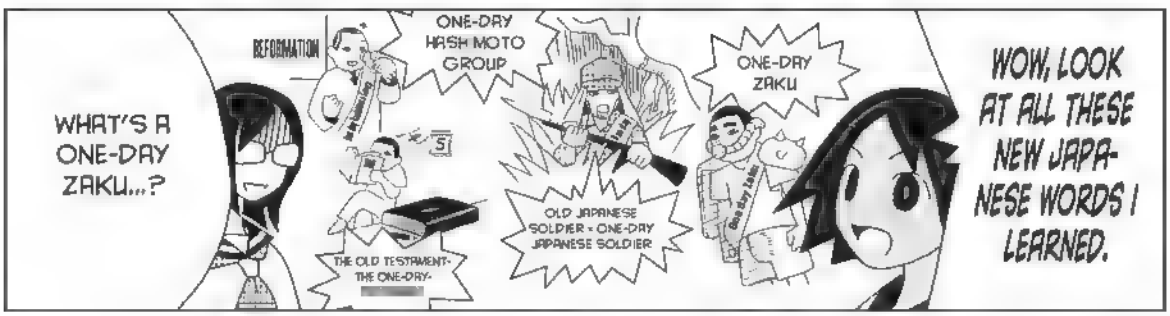

...THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT...

...ON THE DAY OF YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S ENTRANCE CEREMONY. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WERE...
YOU WERE ONLY FRIENDS MOMENTARILY...

YOU TWO ARE NOT OLD FRIENDS.
I'VE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE.
Secret Report

*WHEN COMBINED, THE CHARACTERS USED TO WRITE "ONE DAY" FORM THE CHARACTER FOR "OLD."

SO, IN JAPANESE THE WORDS "OLD" AND "ONE DAY" ARE INTERCHANGEABLE?
SO, AN OLD FRIEND, JUST MEANS SOMEONE WHO YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH FOR A DAY?


WHAT'S A ONE-DAY ZAKU...?
REFORMATION
ONE-DAY HASHIMOTO GROUP
THE OLD TESTAMENT- THE ONE-DAY-
OLD JAPANESE SOLDIER = ONE-DAY JAPANESE SOLDIER
ONE-DAY ZAKU
WOW, LOOK AT ALL THESE NEW JAPANESE WORDS I LEARNED.

A ONE-DAY MARRIAGE?
ARRIVALS
NO, IT'S CALLED A NARITA DIVORCE.

CURRENT CHARGES FROM THIS ISSUE

LETTER OF ACCUSATION

PLAINTIFF:
OCCUPATION: STUDENT
NAME: KAERE KIMURA

DEFENDANT:
OCCUPATION: HOSTESS
NAME: N/A

DATE: MARCH 16
ATTN: CHIEF OF POLICE

- ACCUSATION

THE ACTS BY THE DEFENDANT AS STATED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 203 (CRIME OF ATTEMPTED MURDER), AND THIS COMPLAINT IS MADE TO PURSUE SEVERE PUNISHMENT TO BE HANDED OUT TO THE DEFENDANT.

1. FACTS REGARDING THE ACCUSATION

AT ABOUT 6:00 PM, WHEN MY FRIENDS AND I ARRIVED AT THE INN, THE DEFENDANT BECAME JEALOUS OF MY YOUTH AND BEAUTY, AND ATTEMPTED TO ASSASSINATE ME.

SHE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HER ROLE AS HOSTESS AND SET A TRAP FOR ME IN THE INN'S BATHING AREA. SHE SET IT UP SO THAT I WOULD SLIP AND FALL TO MY DEATH AND IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A MERE ACCIDENT.

WHEN HER PLAN FAILED, SHE FEIGNED IGNORANCE AND HANDED ME A BAND-AID. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SHE WAS TRYING TO CONCEAL ALL EVIDENCE.

THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTS ARE CONSIDERED TO FALL UNDER CRIMINAL LAW, ARTICLE 203 (CRIME OF ATTEMPTED MURDER), AND I HEREBY FILE THIS CHARGE IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THE SUSPECT BE SENTENCED TO THE STRICTEST PUNISHMENT POSSIBLE.

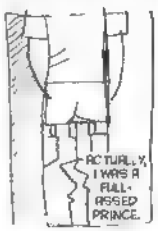
2. EVIDENCE

1. WITNESS: CLASSMATE A
2. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY A DOCTOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS
THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MEDICAL CERTIFICATE – ONE CERTIFICATE

PAPER BLOGS

PREAMBLE



ALTHOUGH I HAD NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER, PEOPLE SEEMED PRETTY EXCITED OVER THIS SUMMER'S HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL WORLD SERIES...HERE I AM, STARTING OFF WITH A GENERAL TOPIC. THE HANDKERCHIEF PRINCE IS QUITE POPULAR NOWADAYS. A LONG TIME AGO, PEOPLE USED TO CALL ME A HALF-ASSED PRINCE.

I'M NOT GONNA FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHO I WAS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. I'M PROBABLY NOT GONNA CHANGE MY MIND TILL THE DAY I DIE. I'M NOT GONNA FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHO I WAS LAST YEAR. I'M NOT GONNA FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHO I WAS YESTERDAY. I'M NOT GONNA FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHO I WAS EARLIER. THE REASON I'M SUFFERING FROM A PULLED MUSCLE RIGHT NOW IS BECAUSE I WAS UNPREPARED IN THE PAST. WHEN I'M IN MY NEXT LIFE, I'M NOT GONNA FORGIVE MYSELF FOR WHO I WAS IN MY PAST LIFE.

WHITE LIES

THERE ARE WHITE LIES TOLD WITH GOOD INTENTIONS AND BLACK LIES TOLD WITH EVIL INTENTIONS. I'VE ALSO HEARD PEOPLE TALK ABOUT RED LIES, SO I GUESS LIES COME IN ALL DIFFERENT COLORS. I WONDER WHAT OTHER COLORED LIES ARE LIKE. IF YOU LIED WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, THAT WOULD BE A BLUE LIE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU LIED ABOUT HAVING A SEXUAL EXPERIENCE DURING THE SUMMER...THAT'D BE A BLUE LIE. LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. SUMMER BREAK WAS ALMOST OVER. SOMEHOW, THE OCEAN LOOKED TOTALLY DIFFERENT IN THE SUMMER. I WAS WORKING AT A GAS STATION NEAR THE BEACH. ONE DAY, A RED ROADSTER CAME IN, AND THE DRIVER ASKED, "CAN YOU WASH THE WINDOWS FOR ME?" "SURE," I REPLIED. THAT WAS MY FIRST CONVERSATION WITH NAGISA. NAGISA WAS A COLLEGE STUDENT IN TOKYO. SHE WAS FOUR YEARS OLDER THAN ME. SHE WAS MATURE AND SEXY, YET AS INNOCENT AS A LITTLE GIRL. (TEXT PARTIALLY OMITTED) NAGISA SMILED AT ME, AND SUDDENLY PULLED INTO A MOTEL. "WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO, LITTLE BOY?" SHE SMILED AGAIN AND LOOKED ME UP AND DOWN WITH HER SEDUCTIVE EYES. (TEXT PARTIALLY OMITTED) THE SKIN BENEATH HER SHIRT WAS THE IVORY COLOR OF FINE WHITE LINEN. (TEXT PARTIALLY OMITTED) WHEN I PUT MY ARMS AROUND HER, I FELT HER BODY SHIVER. ALTHOUGH SHE SEEMED LIKE A PLAYGIRL ON THE OUTSIDE, SHE WAS AS PURE AND INNOCENT AS WHITE LINEN. (TEXT PARTIALLY OMITTED) I WAS INEXPERIENCED, AND THAT WAS AS FAR AS I COULD TAKE THINGS. WE ENDED UP STAYING UP ALL NIGHT TALKING ABOUT THE STARS... I GUESS YOU CAN CALL THIS A BLUE LIE. A LIE THAT'S "ALMOST TRANSPARENT BLUE" IS BLUE, BUT IT'S A VERY LIGHT KIND OF BLUE. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A TRANSPARENT BLUE WOULD BE...LYING ABOUT MEETING A GIRL IN A *SWIMMING POOL*. HERE ARE SOME OTHER COLORS OF LIES: A GREEN LIE → LYING ABOUT RECYCLING, OR OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES....LIKE AN OIL COMPANY ADVERTISEMENT. A YELLOW LIE → WHEN AN INDIAN FRIEND TELLS YOU THAT A CURRY ISN'T THAT SPICY, WHEN IT'S ACTUALLY CRAZY HOT. THERE ARE LIES THAT GO WITH EVERY COLOR OF THE RAINBOW. WHAT COLOR ARE MY LIES, YOU ASK? HMMM...

PREAMBLE | WHITE LIES | DETOX

SOME PEOPLE COMPLAIN THAT I CAN BE TOO HARSH AND OTHERS THAT I AM NOT HARSH ENOUGH. I'VE CHOSEN SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE PATH. I CAN'T MAKE ANY MONEY ON THIS PATH. PEOPLE GET MAD WHEN I TALK SHIT ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE. BUT PEOPLE GET MAD WHEN I SAY NICE THINGS TOO. I'VE CHOSEN SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE PATH. I WANTED TO BE LOVED BY EVERYONE AND CREATE A MANGA THAT WOULD BE MADE INTO AN ANIME. I WANTED TO BE LOVED, AND MAKE LOTS OF MONEY AND LIVE IN A GORGEOUS CONDO WHERE I COULD GROW HERBS AND GO TO FINISHING SCHOOL. IS THAT EVER GONNA HAPPEN? WAIT, DOES SUCH A PATH EVEN EXIST?

SNOW MELTING

WHENEVER SOMEBODY EXPERIENCES "SNOW MELTING," I'M THE ONE WHO GETS SOAKED BY THE DIRTY, GRAY WATER. WHEN THE SNOW MELTS, IT TURNS INTO A RIVER, AND I GET SOAKED. WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, THE CAPTAIN AND THE COACH HAD A SNOW MELTING EXPERIENCE, AND I ENDED UP BEING BENCHED THE WHOLE SEASON. YEP, I GOT SOAKED BY GRAY WATER. ONE TIME, MY CHIEF EDITOR AND A CERTAIN MANGA ARTIST HAD A SNOW MELTING EXPERIENCE, AND I WAS ASKED TO QUIT WRITING FOR A MAGAZINE. YEP, I GOT SOAKED BY GRAY WATER. SNOW MELTING IS FINE ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY WHO GETS SOAKED BY THE RESULTING GRAY WATER. SO PLEASE STOP FIGHTING AND RECONCILING FOR GOD'S SAKE. THE DIRTY WATER ALWAYS FLOWS TO THE BOTTOM.

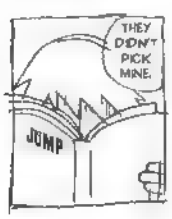
SELF-COMPLETING

I HEARD SOMEBODY SAY, "THIS MANGA IS OVER" AFTER READING THE FIRST CHAPTER OF *ZETSUBOU SENSEI*. TO HIM, MY MANGA WAS ALREADY COMPLETE. WELL, SORRY THAT MY ALREADY "COMPLETED" SERIES HAS GONE ALL THE WAY TO VOLUME FIVE. THE END WAS ACTUALLY THE BEGINNING. NAH, THAT SOUNDS TOO COOL. IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. PEOPLE START TO GET OLD THE MOMENT THEY ARE BORN. I'D SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT THIS MANGA. THE MOMENT IT WAS BORN, IT WAS ALREADY OLD. IT'S AS IF A MAN WERE BORN AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-EIGHT...AND COULD DIE AT ANY MOMENT. THAT'S WHAT THIS MANGA IS LIKE. PEOPLE OFTEN SAY, "I DON'T GET YOUR JOKES." WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A SELF-COMPLETING MANGA ARTIST. I WRITE STORIES THAT MAKE ME LAUGH, BUT NOBODY LAUGHS AT MY JOKES. I'M LIKE A LONELY CLOWN SITTING ALL ALONE IN THE DARK. WELL, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I DON'T FIND MY STORIES THAT FUNNY EITHER.

MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT

EVEN WHEN I TRY TO LIVE BEYOND MY MINOTAKE MEASUREMENT, FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, I'M ALWAYS FORCED TO LIVE ACCORDING TO MY MINOTAKE. WHEN I ORDER A SET MENU AT A RESTAURANT, THERE'S USUALLY ONE ITEM MISSING. THE RESTAURANT MUST'VE PREPARED MY MEAL ACCORDING TO MY MINOTAKE. WHEN I ORDER CURRY OVER RICE, THE ONLY TOPPING I GET IS THINLY SLICED ALMONDS...IT'S LIKE SAYING "THAT'S ALL YOU DESERVE, YOU PIECE OF TRASH." WHEN I ORDER PANCAKES, I DON'T GET ANY SYRUP. WHEN I ORDER A COFFEE FLOAT, I DON'T GET ANY ICE CREAM. ONE TIME A READER SENT ME CHOCOLATE, AND THERE WAS A TOOTH MARK IN IT. IT'S LIKE NOT GETTING FLORA WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING *DRAGON QUEST*. IT SEEMS LIKE MY LIFE IS MADE UP OF ONE LOSS AFTER ANOTHER, BUT I'M NOT GONNA COMPLAIN BECAUSE I'M JUST A SIMPLE, "PIECE OF TRASH." I BOUGHT A LONG-SLEEVED SHIRT THE OTHER DAY, BUT IT TURNED OUT TO HAVE THREE-QUARTER SLEEVES. I ALWAYS WALK ON THE EDGE OF THE STREET SO I WON'T GET IN ANYONE ELSE'S WAY.

TOO MUCH EVIDENCE

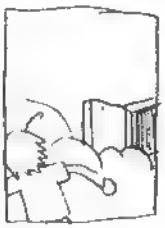


THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE. THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE THAT I'M A BAD MANGA ARTIST. I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, AND NOBODY EVEN NOTICES ME. I SENT AN ILLUSTRATION TO *JUMP BROADCASTING STATION* USING MY REAL NAME, AND IT WAS COMPLETELY IGNORED. I'VE NEVER EVEN MADE IT INTO THE TOOHAN MANGA RANKING. PRIME MINISTER ASO HAS NEVER SAID A WORD TO ME, AND MY NEIGHBORHOOD BOOKSTORE DOESN'T EVEN CARRY MY MANGA. THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE THAT I'M NOT TALENTED...WAY TOO MUCH EVIDENCE. THERE'S SO MUCH EVIDENCE THAT IT MAKES IT HARD TO BELIEVE. IT MAKES ME THINK, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD REALLY BE THAT BAD. WAIT A MINUTE, MAYBE I'M NOT THAT BAD. THIS IS A NEW KIND OF POSITIVE THINKING. THERE'S NO WAY I'M BAD.

DREAM ENDING

I CAME UP WITH A COOL IDEA IN MY DREAM. I FORGOT IT THE MOMENT I WOKE UP, SO I WENT BACK TO SLEEP HOPING THAT IT WOULD COME BACK TO ME. I ENDED UP HAVING A DREAM ABOUT TAKAKO MATSU. IT WAS VERY REAL... MAYBE SHE WAS ACTUALLY HERE. I'M AN INSOMNIAC SO I HAVE A HARD TIME TELLING THE REAL WORLD FROM THE DREAM WORLD. THERE'S THIS EDITOR WHO ALWAYS APPEARS IN MY DREAMS WHEN I'M HALF ASLEEP. I'M NOT REALLY SURE IF HE'S REAL OR NOT. HIS NAME IS TETSUSUKE TAKEKI, AND IT'S HIS SECOND YEAR WORKING AS AN EDITOR. HE'S A RICH KID WHO LIVES IN A PENTHOUSE ALL BY HIMSELF. HE DRIVES AN ALFA ROMEO AND DATES MODELS EVERY WEEKEND. HE ALWAYS SAYS, "I'VE GOT AT LEAST SEVEN GIRLFRIENDS." HE REALLY GETS ON MY NERVES. HE'S ACTUALLY A MASOCHIST, AND HE ONCE SHOWED UP TO A MEETING WHILE CHAINED AND GAGGED BY A DOMINATRIX. WHAT MAKES HIM THINK HE CAN CONDUCT A MEETING WHILE HE'S BOUND AND GAGGED? I FELT TOTALLY ABANDONED. IT WAS AS IF I WAS BEING FORCED INTO HIS KINKY WORLD. THERE'S ALSO AN ASSISTANT NAMED KIMURA WHO APPEARS IN MY DREAMS. HE ALWAYS LOOKS DOWN ON ME. HE TELLS ME THAT MY DRAWING STYLE IS TOO OLD-FASHIONED AND WON'T PLAY TO A YOUNG AUDIENCE. YOU BASTARDS. QUIT MESSING WITH ME! SOMEDAY I'LL KILL YOU. I SWEAR.

BE PREPARED



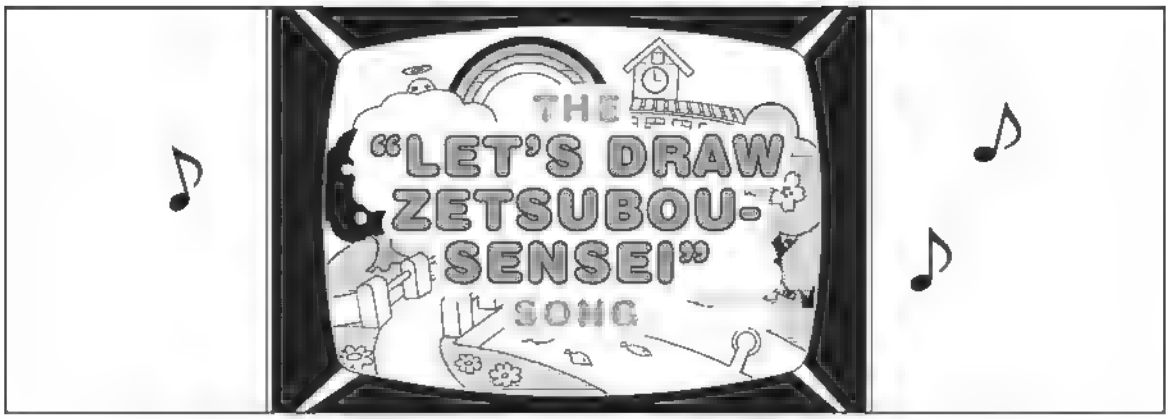
PREPARATION BACKFIRES 100% OF THE TIME. TRY USING A WALKING STICK, AND YOU END UP GETTING STABBED BY IT. I TRIP ON SLIP-PROOF FLOORS. I ALMOST SUFFOCATED MYSELF SLEEPING IN PADDED HEADGEAR. I GET A RASH WHENEVER I USE BUG SPRAY. IT MAKES TOTAL SENSE... SINCE I'M NOTHING BUT A LOWLY BUG. WHY WOULD A BUG USE BUG SPRAY? WHEN I PUT MOTHBALLS IN MY CLOSET, I END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO WEAR ANYTHING. IF MY APARTMENT WAS FUMIGATED, I'D MOVE OUT. WHAT ELSE COULD I DO? AFTER ALL, I'M JUST A LOWLY BUG. I'M THE LOWEST KIND OF BUG THERE IS. I'M A DUNG BEETLE. NO MATTER WHAT I DO TO PREPARE, IT ALWAYS BACKFIRES.

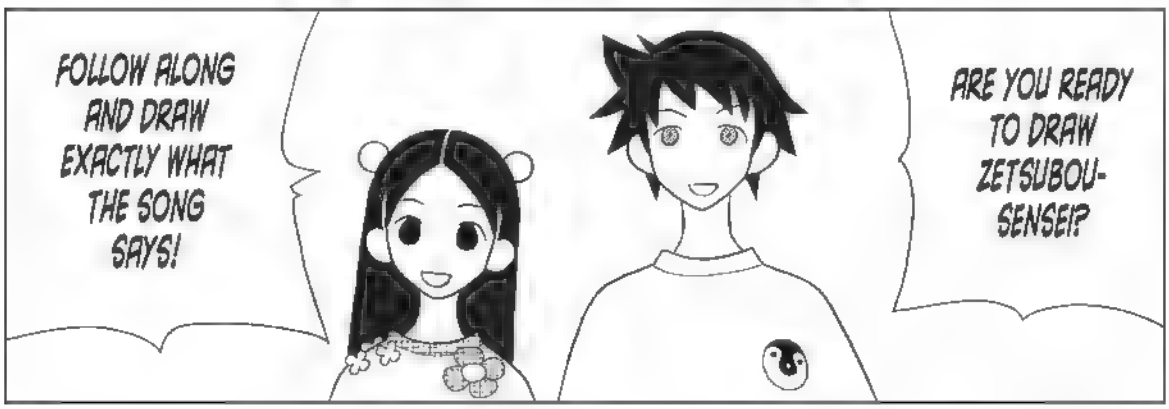
SECRET CODE

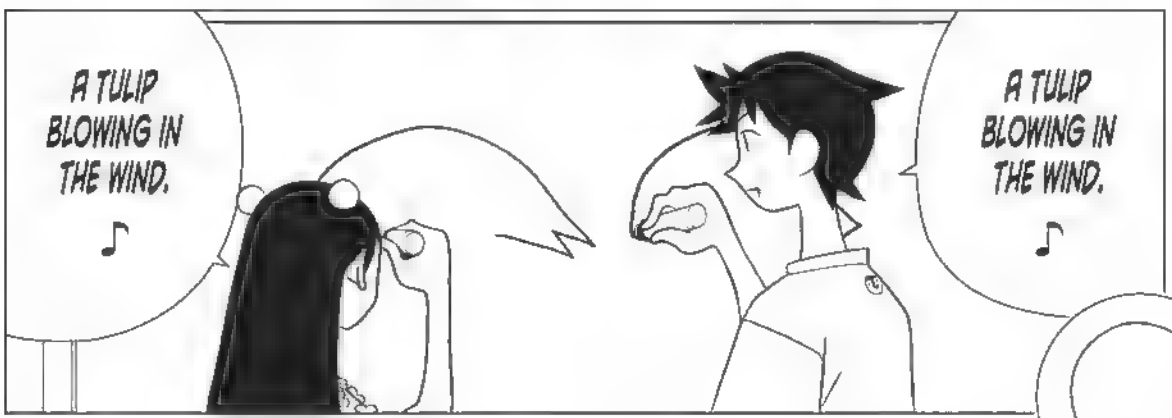
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN CALL THIS A SECRET CODE, BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN USING WORDS THAT NOBODY ELSE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND. I'M SPEAKING JAPANESE TO JAPANESE PEOPLE, BUT THEY STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. ACTUALLY, I'VE ALWAYS HAD A TENDENCY TO USE WEIRD WORDS. I CALL 7-ELEVEN "SEREBU" FOR SHORT (MOST PEOPLE CALL IT "SEVEN"). AND I CALL AMPM "EMUPI" (MOST PEOPLE SAY "EEPII"). I ALSO CALL BRAD PITT "BUUPITTO" (MOST PEOPLE CALL HIM "BURAPI"). THE OTHER DAY I ASKED MAEDA-KUN, "HEY, IS YOUR MEBON ACTING UP?" AND MAEDA-KUN WAS LIKE "HUH???" "MEBON" IS SHORT FOR "METABOLIC SYNDROME." I USE IT ALL THE TIME. I'VE PROBABLY SAID IT SO MANY TIMES THAT I'VE CONVINCED MYSELF IT WAS NORMAL. HAVE YOU BOUGHT OHABI YET? IS MASENE ENTERTAINING? I WONDER HOW FUKAHIRE IS DOING.

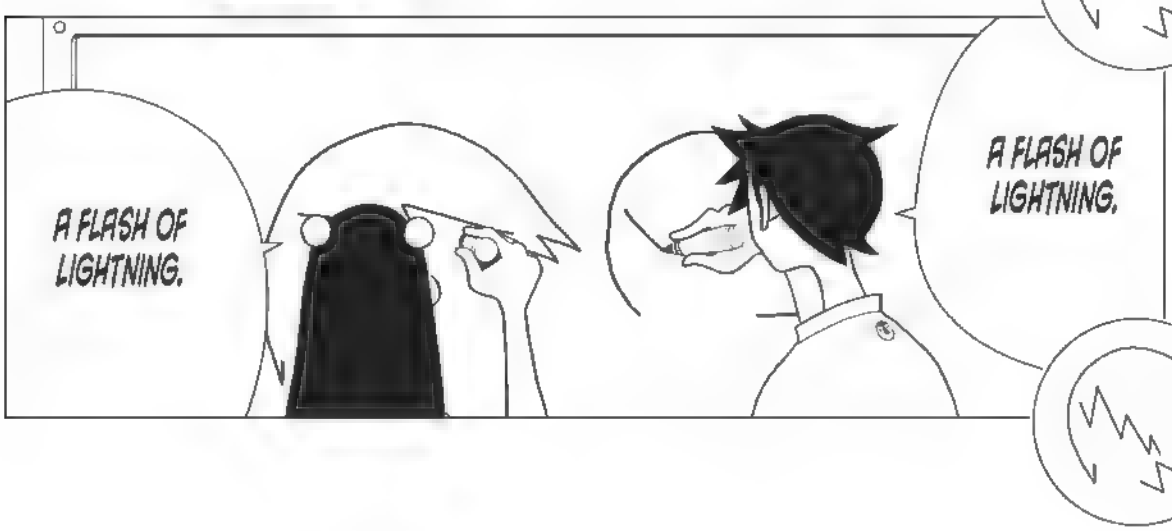
OLD FRIEND

I DON'T HAVE ANY OLD FRIENDS. I DON'T HAVE ANY REGULAR FRIENDS EITHER. I HAVE NO FRIENDS. I'M SERIOUS. IT'S NOT LIKE I LOVE BEING ALONE. I JUST HAPPEN TO BE ALONE ALL THE TIME. THAT'S JUST MY FATE. I WENT TO A DINER THE OTHER DAY, AND I WAS SITTING ALONE IN THE NONSMOKING SECTION. THEN A GROUP OF THIRTY PEOPLE SHOWED UP. IT WAS A BUNCH OF LADIES WHO HAD JUST PICKED THEIR KIDS UP FROM NURSERY SCHOOL. THEY PUT SOME TABLES TOGETHER AND MADE ONE HUGE GROUP TABLE. I WAS ALL ALONE AGAIN. THERE WAS A HUGE GROUP IN THE MIDDLE AND THEN ME, ALL ALONE IN THE CORNER. I WAS COMPLETELY ISOLATED. IT REMINDED ME OF WHAT MY TEACHER USED TO DO TO ME BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. TELL ME, GOD, WHAT AM I BEING PUNISHED FOR? THEN A CHILD STARED AT ME IN ASTONISHMENT WITH HIS PURE, INNOCENT LITTLE EYES. HE WAS PROBABLY THINKING, *WHY IS THERE A STRANGE OLD MAN SITTING IN THE SAME ROOM AS US?* THERE'S ONE THING THAT I LEARNED THAT DAY. IT GETS REALLY COLD IN A DINER WHEN THERE'RE NO OTHER TABLES AROUND YOU. THE AIR-CONDITIONER WAS BLOWING RIGHT AT ME, WITH NOTHING TO BLOCK THE ICY BREEZE.

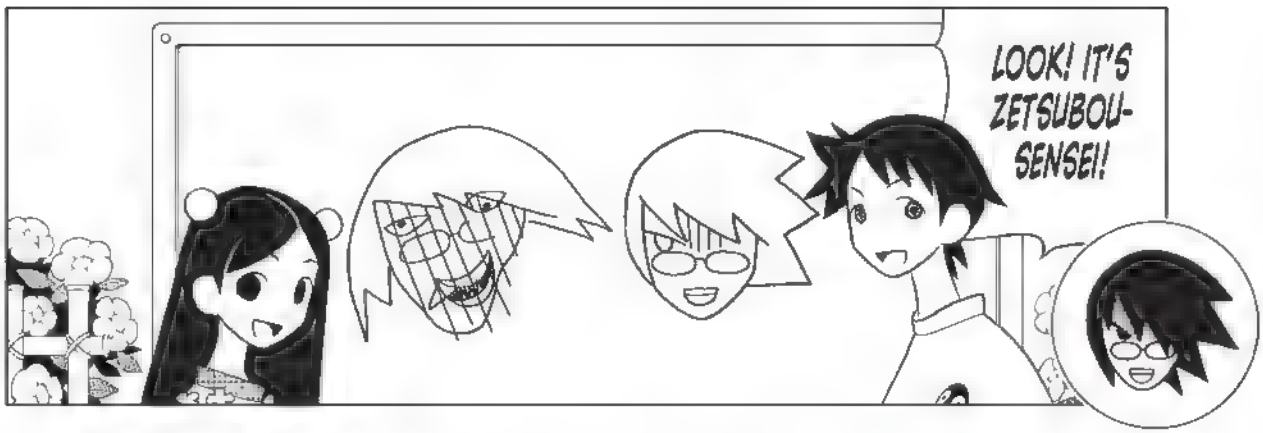

THE
"LET'S DRAW ZETSUBOU-SENSEI"
SONG

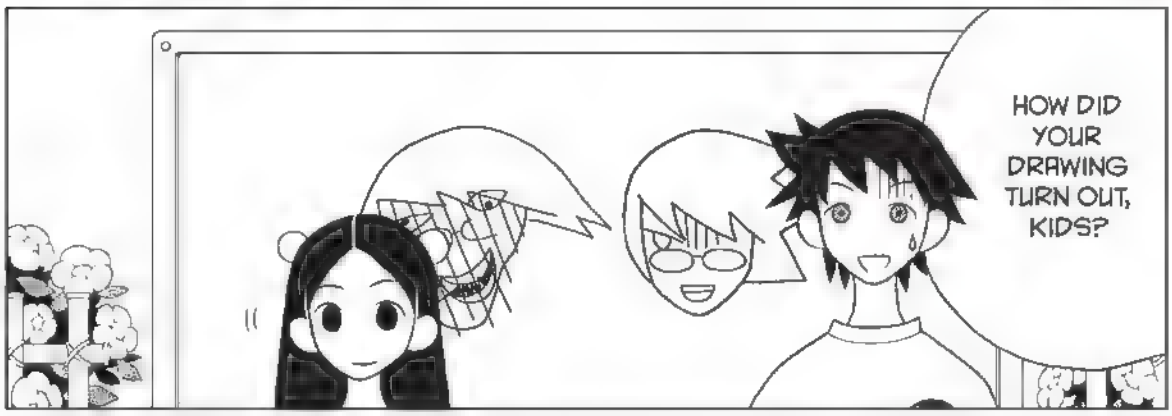

FOLLOW ALONG AND DRAW EXACTLY WHAT THE SONG SAYS!
ARE YOU READY TO DRAW ZETSUBOU-SENSEI?

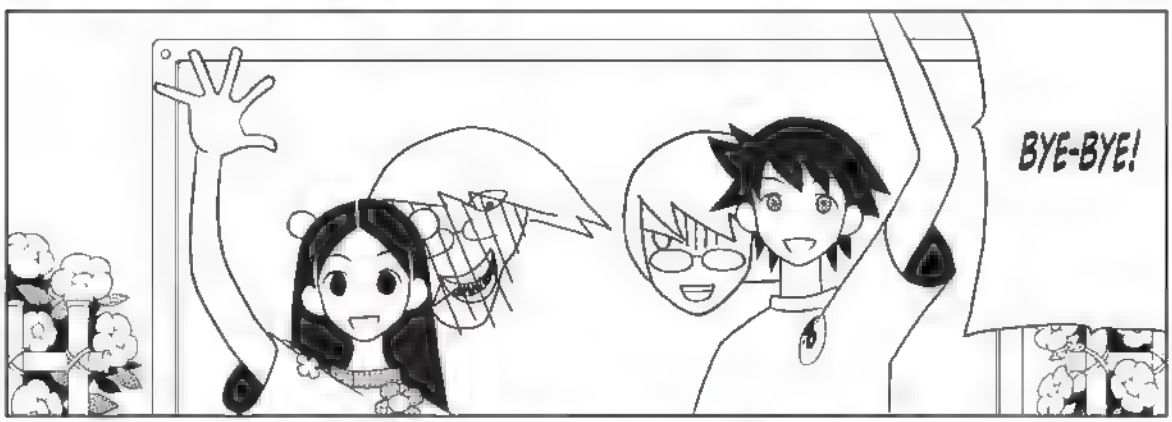

A TULIP BLOWING IN THE WIND.
♪
A TULIP BLOWING IN THE WIND.
♪

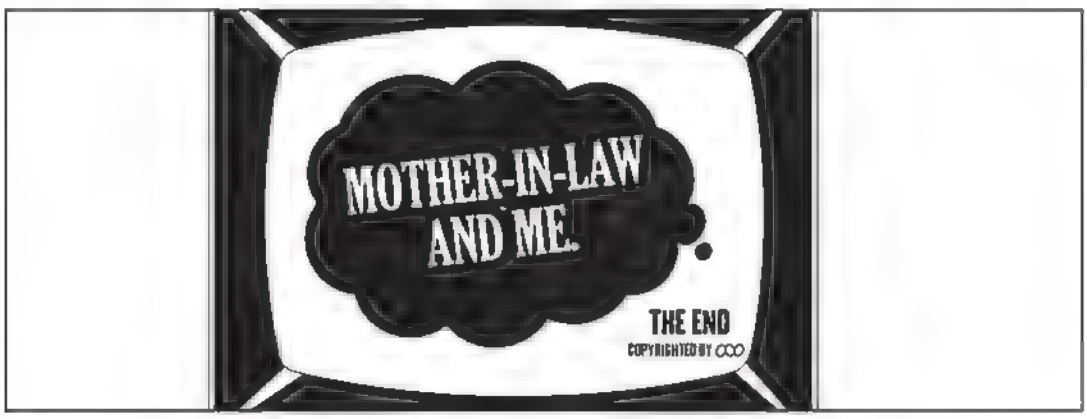

A FLASH OF LIGHTNING.
A FLASH OF LIGHTNING.

THE RAIN COMES POURING DOWN.
THERE'S A LEAK IN THE ROOF, AND TWO LITTLE PUDDLES FORM.
LET'S DO SOME FISHING! WE NEED A HOOK!
LET'S MAKE KAMABOKO FISH CAKES WITH THE FISH THAT WE'VE CAUGHT.


LOOK! IT'S ZETSUBOU-SENSEI!


HOW DID YOUR DRAWING TURN OUT, KIDS?


BYE-BYE!


MOTHER-IN-LAW AND ME.
THE END
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ZETSUBOU LITERARY COMPILATION

RODRIGO IN IZU

RODRIGO WAS FROM PUERTO RICO. HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ABOUT THIRTY-TWO. ONE TIME, I SAW RODRIGO COME RUNNING TOWARD ME FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE BATHROOM. HE WAS COMPLETELY NAKED AND HAD BOTH OF HIS ARMS STRETCHED OUT. HE GRABBED ME OUT OF THE BLUE. HE WASN'T EVEN HOLDING A TOWEL. THAT WAS RODRIGO.

SHUT THE DOOR!

SHUT THE DOOR!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. In the case of a text-dense manga like *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*, it's a delicate art indeed. Although most of the jokes are universal, Koji Kumeta is famous for filling his manga with references to Japanese politics, entertainment, *otaku* culture, religion, and sports. Unless you're a true Japanophile, it's difficult to understand it all without some serious background knowledge of current events at the time the manga was running. Kumeta also uses references to foreign literature and politics, so even Japanese readers probably don't get all the humor. For your reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the more obscure references and difficult-to-translate jokes in *Sayonara, Zetsubou-sensei*.

"White Day", page 5

The Japanese version of Valentine's Day is a bit different than the American tradition. In Japan, Valentine's Day is a day when girls give presents to the boys they like (usually chocolate). This is followed by a holiday called White Day, when boys give presents to girls.

"It happens a lot in Africa," page 11

This is a reference to Nigerian-born TV personality Bobby Ologun. Ologun is a K-1 fighter and entertainer who was caught lying about his age.

"Welcome home, master," page 11

This is how maids greet their customers at Maid Cafés.

Conan-kun, Ran-chan, page 11

Conan-kun and Ran-chan are characters from the anime *Detective Conan*.

Kobo-chan, page 26

Kobo-chan is a very clean manga about a five-year-old kid and his family.

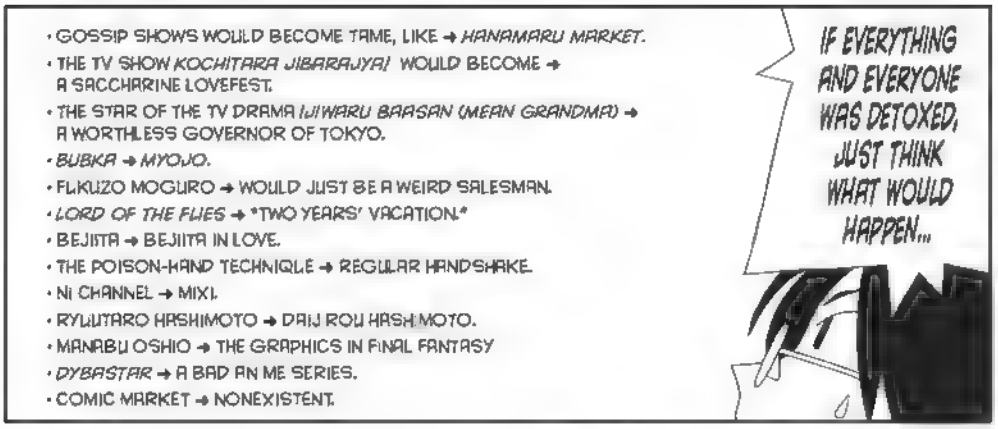
OH MY GOD, THEY SOUND JUST LIKE THE KIDS ON THAT TV REALITY SHOW.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
I WONDER IF I CAN STUDY TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN.

TV reality show, page 27

The teacher is actually saying, "They're talking like the kids in *Chuugakusei Nikki*."
Chuugakusei Nikki (Junior High School Diary) is a reality series on NHK (PBC).
The show follows real-life junior high kids and focuses on the challenges they face.

Black Jack, page 27

Black Jack is a classic manga by Osamu Tezuka about a morally ambiguous doctor.


• GOSSIP SHOWS WOULD BECOME TAME, LIKE → HANAMARU MARKET.
• THE TV SHOW KOCHITARA JIBARAJYA! WOULD BECOME → A SACCHARINE LOVEFEST.
• THE STAR OF THE TV DRAMA IJIWARU BAASAN (MEAN GRANDMA) → A WORTHLESS GOVERNOR OF TOKYO.
• BUBKA → MYOJO.
• FUKUZO MOGURO → WOULD JUST BE A WEIRD SALESMAN.
• LORD OF THE FLIES → "TWO YEARS' VACATION."
• BEJIITA → BEJIITA IN LOVE.
• THE POISON-HAND TECHNIQUE → REGULAR HANDSHAKE.
• NI CHANNEL → MIXI.
• RYUUTARO HASHIMOTO → DAIJ ROU HASHIMOTO.
• MANABU OSHIO → THE GRAPHICS IN FINAL FANTASY
• DYBASTAR → A BAD AN ME SERIES.
• COMIC MARKET → NONEXISTENT.
IF EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE WAS DETOXED, JUST THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

Kochitara Jibarajya!, page 29

This is a show within a TV show called *Toranomon*. In this show, director Kazuyuki Izutsu does movie reviews and critiques.

Ijiwaru Baasan, page 29

Ijiwaru Baasan is a TV dramedy series that starred Yukio Aoshima. Aoshima later became the governor of Tokyo.

Bubka, Myojo, page 29

Bubka is a gossip magazine that publishes celebrity scandals. *Myojo* is a more wholesome celebrity magazine.

Fukuzo Moguro, page 29

He is the main character of the dark manga *Laughing Salesman*.

Bejiita, page 29

Bejiita is a character in the manga *Dragon Ballz*.

Ni channel, page 29

Ni channel is a popular Internet site among *otaku* and is known for its harshness.

Mixi, page 29

Mixi is a social networking site. A Japanese version of MySpace.

Ryuutaro Hashimoto... Daijirou Hashimoto, page 29

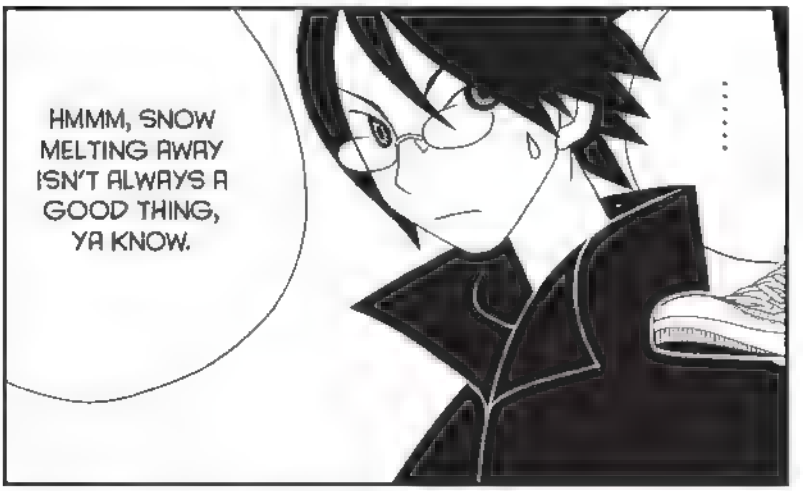
These brothers are both politicians. Ryuutaro used to be the prime minister of Japan.

Manabu Oshio, page 29

Manabu Oshio is an actor/singer in his twenties. People were shocked when he married the actress, Akiko Yada.

Dybastar, page 29

Dybastar is the title of a late-night anime TV show.



Yukidoke, page 34

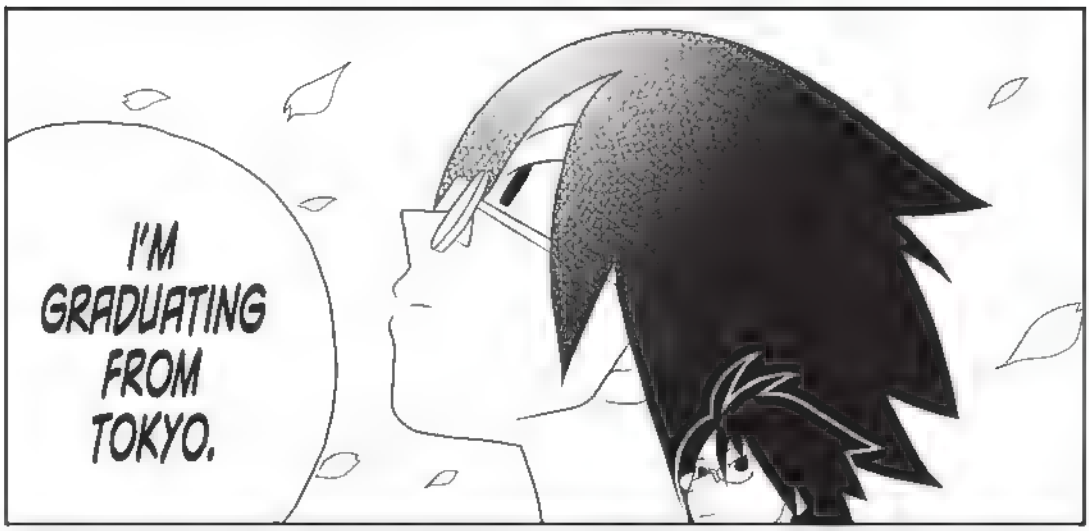
In this chapter, the author uses the term "*yukidoke*" (melting snow) to refer metaphorically to the reconciliation, or "warming," of an icy relationship.

Doujinshi, page 40

A *doujinshi* is a homemade comic that is usually a parody of an existing manga or anime series.

A conflict between two nations is resolved thanks to a beautiful twelve-year-old girl, page 41

This is a reference to celebrity Saya Irie's effect on the relationship between China and Japan. Apparently, somebody posted a message with her photo on a Chinese website as a statement for world peace, which helped start some reconciliation between the two nations.

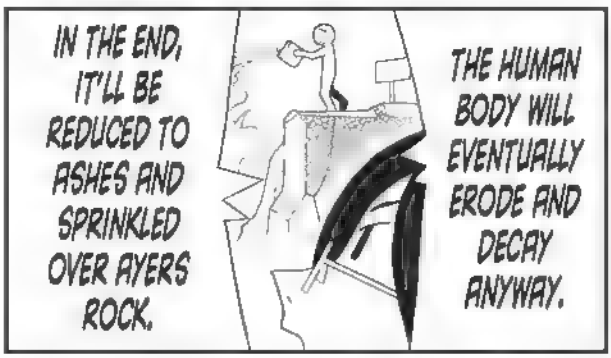


"I'm graduating from Tokyo," page 48

This is a phrase spoken by the lead character Jun in the popular TV drama *Kita no Kuni kara*. He moves to Tokyo and decides to move back to Hokkaido after suffering through big city life.

Zekkei-sensei, page 56

Kafuka calls Kei Itoshiki "Zekkei-sensei" because when you combine the kanji "Ito" and "Shiki," it becomes "Zetsu." "Zetsu" and "Kei" together create the word "Zekkei," which means "fabulous view."



Ayers Rock, page 62

This is a reference to the movie *Sekai no Chuushin de Ai wo Sakebu*. In the story, the lead character goes to Ayers Rock and sprinkles his lover's ashes there. Ayers Rock is known to some as the center of the planet. "Chuushin" means "center."

Fashion Center Shimara,** page 64

Fashion Center Shimamura is a Japanese discount outlet.

Tatami mat, page 69

This is an old Buddhist proverb about living modestly. The idea is that a monk only needs half a mat to pray on while awake, and while asleep he needs a full mat on which to lie.

Zetton, page 70

Zetton is the name of a monster that appeared in *Ultraman*.

Posthumous Buddhist name, page 71

It is a Japanese tradition to give names after someone passes away.

Shougo Hamada, page 72

Shougo Hamada is a rock musician/songwriter in his fifties.

Don (Kizakura), page 75

Don is a name of cheap sake manufactured by Kizakura.

When you see a photo of an idol smoking..., page 82

This is referring to a scandal in which underaged female idol, Ai Kago, was caught smoking. She was fired from her agency and wasn't allowed to work for a year.

Dream ending, page 92

This refers to when a story ends with the main character waking up from a dream, thereby nullifying the entire story.

Tezuka-sensei, page 92

This is a reference to Osamu Tezuka, the grandfather of manga, who apparently didn't like dream endings.

"My dream...," page 100

"My dream isn't over yet" were the words famously shouted by the Japanese pro-baseball team manager Hara.

Dream Come True, page 102

Dream Come True is a band. They used to be a trio but one member quit the band years ago.

Kunimatsu no Matsuri, page 113

Kunimatsu no Matsuri is the title of a manga series published in *Shônen Jump* from 2001–2005.

Horie over rice, page 122

Horie is the former CEO of the Japanese tech company Livedoor. He's currently in prison for fraud.

AND AT SOME REVOLVING SUSHI PLACES IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DECIPHER HOW MUCH THINGS COST. NOW THAT'S A SECRET CODE.
100 yen
150 yen
150 yen
450 yen
500 yen

Revolving sushi, page 122

Revolving sushi restaurants are a popular kind of low-cost, no frills alternative to high-end sushi bars. Plates of sushi rotate around on a conveyor belt and diners simply take the dishes they want. The price is generally determined by the color or pattern of the plates.

****yo Marukawa, page 126

This is referring to Tamayo Marukawa, an announcer for TV Asahi.

"Maintenance of the Public Order Act," page 127

This was a draconian law aimed at stamping out anti-government sentiment in Japan.

The planet Corin, page 127

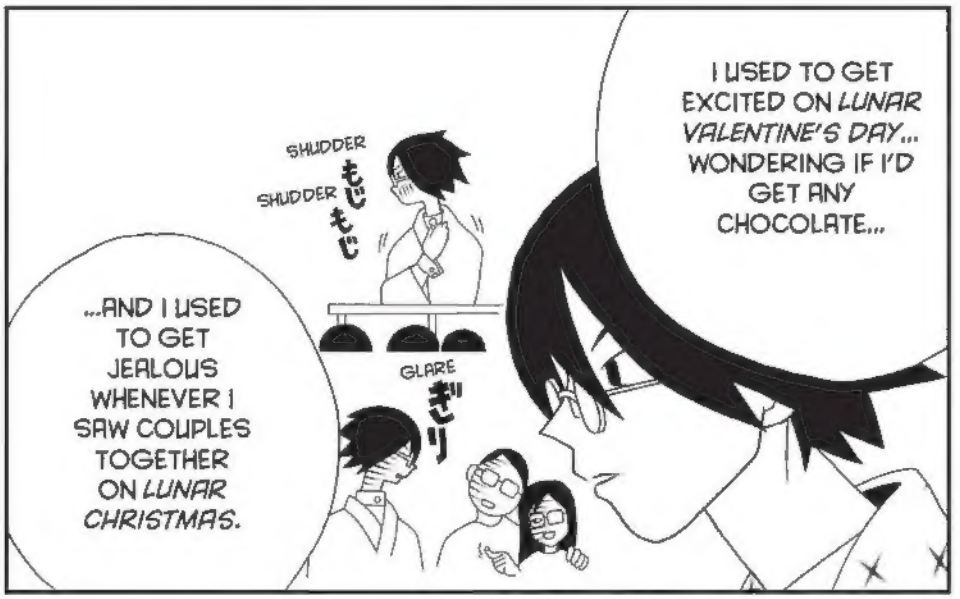
Celebrity Yuuko Ogura claims to be from the planet Corin, but she's actually from Chiba prefecture.

Our National Dignity, page 127

This is the title of a bestselling book written by Masahiko Fujiwara. In one chapter he writes about the way of the samurai.

Lunar New Year's Soba, page 135

It is a Japanese tradition to eat soba noodles on New Year's Eve, this soba is called "toshikoshi soba." "Toshikoshi" literally means something like "Coming into the new year."


I USED TO GET EXCITED ON *LUNAR VALENTINE'S DAY*... WONDERING IF I'D GET ANY CHOCOLATE...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER もじ もじ
GLARE ギリ
...AND I USED TO GET JEALOUS WHENEVER I SAW COUPLES TOGETHER ON *LUNAR CHRISTMAS*.

Lunar Christmas, page 135

In Japan, where less than 1 percent of the population identifies as Christian, Christmas is not celebrated as a religious holiday. Instead, Christmas Eve is somewhat similar to Valentine's Day in the United States. It's usually associated with couples and romance, hence Zetsubou-sensei's jealousy.

MY NEIGHBORS THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY.
I USED TO THROW BEANS ON LUNAR *SETSUBUN* ALL BY MYSELF.
WHEN IS LUNAR VALENTINE'S DAY AND LUNAR CHRISTMAS?

Setsubun, page 135

Setsubun is the day before the first day of spring. It's a Japanese tradition to throw roasted soybeans inside and outside of the house, while saying out loud, "Oni wa soto [demons go outside], Fuku wa uchi [Good fortune come inside]."

YOU'RE GONNA TAKE THE WEEK OFF, AREN'T YOU?
OH YEAH, LUNAR GOLDEN WEEK IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER... I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!

Golden Week, page 135

Golden Week is a three-day holiday that usually falls in May. Golden Week is one of the busiest travel times in Japan.

My occupation facility, page 135

This is a facilty built and run by the Kyoto city government. It's supposed to provide students with information and training for various kinds of jobs. However, it's failed to draw crowds and is considered by many residents to be a colossal waste of taxpayer money.

Tokaido Trail, page 136

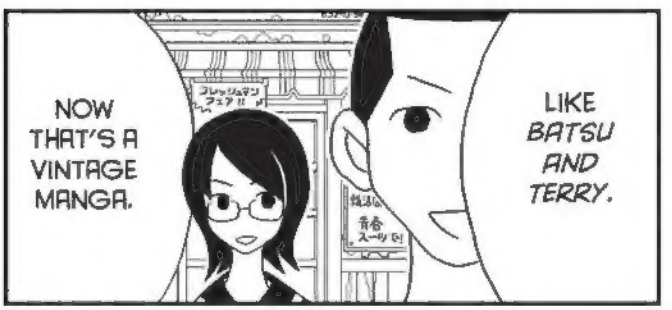
The old Tokaido Trail connects the cities of Osaka and Tokyo.

Zaku, page 137

Zaku is the name of a mobile suit that appears in the anime *Gundam*.

Welcome Old Freshmen, page 139

In Japan, school clubs often throw welcome parties for prospective freshmen members.



Batsu and Terry, page 140

This is the title of a manga that was published in *Shônen Magazine* 1982–1987.

Shinsengumi, page 140

Shinsengumi is the name of an army formed in Kyoto during the end of the Edo period. "Shin" means "new."

Shinjo, page 140

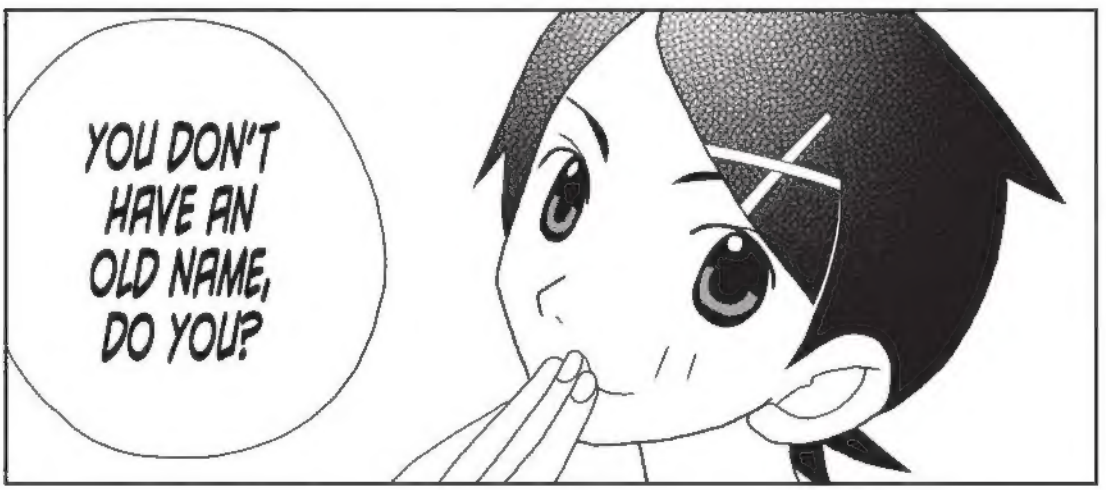
This is referring to Tsuyoshi Shinjo, a popular baseball player.

Arata Furuta, page 140

Arata Furuta is an actor. The word "arata" means "new" in Japanese.

Old Livedoor, page 140

This is a visual kanji pun. The Livedoor company symbol looks very similar to the Japanese kanji "kyuu," meaning "old."



Old name, page 141

In Japan, when a couple gets married, the bride generally takes on the groom's family name. When sending greeting cards, women sometimes write their maiden name in parentheses. Although it's rare, the groom can legally take on the family name of his bride. This usually happens when the wife is the only child of her family and her parents want the family name to live on.

One-day friends, page 146

This is a visual kanji pun. The character for "old" is actually made up of a combination of the character for "one" and the character for "day." The kanji characters in this panel read "one-day friend." However, if the first two characters were a bit closer together, it would read "old friend."

One-day Zaku, page 146

This is a reference to the manga *Gundam*. Zaku is the nickname of the mobile suit MS-05. The suit that appeared in the anime series was, in fact, the "new" version. The "old zaku" refers to the original version of the MS-05 mobile suit.

One-day Hashimoto group, page 146

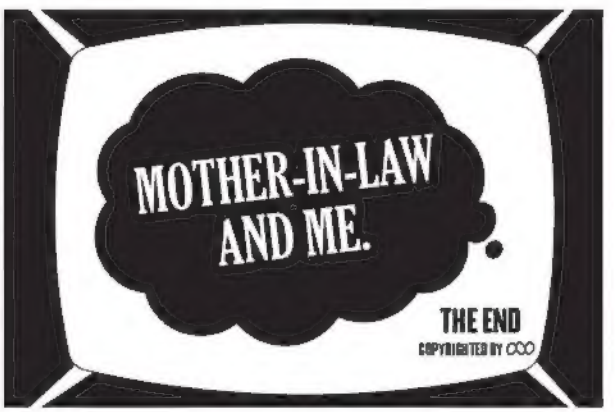
This is a reference to a group of politicians that existed within the Liberal Democratic Party lead by Ryuutaro Hashimoto. When Hashimoto was defeated by Koizumi as the leader of the party in 2001, the group fell apart.

Old Japanese soldier, Page 146

The term "old soldier" here refers to World War Two–era Japanese troops who continued to fight even after the war had ended. Some troops were in such isolated areas of Asia, such as the jungles of the Philippines or Guam, that they continued to believe that they were still at war, years after the war had ended.

Narita divorce, Page 147

A Narita divorce is when a couple gets divorced as soon as they return from their honeymoon. Narita is Tokyo's international airport.



Mother-in-Law and Me, Page 154

This is a reference to the popular, long-running Japanese kids' show *Mommy and Me*.